

The Joey

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Happy New Year to one and all.

Well, it's a year of change for C.I. as we propose some changes to our Constitution to bring it in line with the 21st century, and allow for the use of modern technology.



Although the next change may not suit all, the committee have taken the decision - due to ever increasing costs and also taking into consideration of late or missing posts over the Xmas period - to reduce the number of issues of The Joey from 4 to 3. Hopefully this will also allow people more time in between deadlines for members to send items in. Although fuel prices across the world may have tumbled, the cost of printing and postage has not, in fact they have increased. We are looking at ways that in the future could reverse this decision but this has been a necessary step to ensure we can provide you with a quality magazine.

So there will only be a spring, summer and winter edition of The Joey and new deadlines and postage dates are shown in the back of the magazine.

Your magazine needs your input.

We need articles/reports, tricks,
prop making
and prop use,
Hi res images.

send to:

editor@clowns-international.com

With Subject: For the Joey

Next Deadline is 21st May

My name is Drew Robilliard, I am aged 13 and live on the little island of Guernsey, situated in the English Channel just off the coast of France. Guernsey is only 30.12 square miles (78 km²), with a population of approximately 65,000. Due to its size the opportunities to learn out of the ordinary talents such as clown skills are slim. I have always been fascinated with clowns and circus skills and once a year for the first week of my school summer holiday, a Town Carnival takes place in St Peter Port, the main parish of Guernsey. Sonny and Rainbow the clowns have been the main attraction for all the children, together with Punch and Judy for as long as I can remember.

Sonny and Rainbow arrive each year loaded with amazing circus equipment and perform hilarious shows throughout the week. Over the years they have inspired me to learn the many skills they have demonstrated, juggling, unicycling, globe walking, the list is endless. As a young child I would take part in the fancy dress competition judged by Sonny and Rainbow. Each year I would spend countless hours designing my own inspired clown costume and with assistance from my parents we would bring my ideas alive with a costume and make-up. Fancy dress day was one of my favourite's during carnival week because being dressed in clown attire I felt a bigger part of Sonny and Rainbow antics. Every year Rainbow performs globe walking ball skills, letting the children try standing and walking with assistance. It was so hard, but every day I would give it a go and by the end of the week I could stand for a few seconds unaided, however had to wait another year before I could have another attempt. This influenced me to ask my parents for one every Christmas and birthday.

On my 10th birthday I woke up to a huge box in the living room, and there inside was an yellow 18 inch Voltage globe walking ball, I was so delighted and



straight away started learning to walk unaided on the ball. Within a couple of weeks I was walking confidently and taking the ball to the park. I have since taught myself to juggle and skip whilst on the ball. Back in 2009 during my May half term, an opportunity arose to take part in a circus skills workshop. My parents immediately signed me up to attend, knowing that I was so keen to learn these skills and spent endless hours

researching clown and circus acts from the internet and books. The week brought many challenges and helped me on my journey to master riding a

unicycle. I had an amazing time and was exposed to many new circus skills, including the tightrope. I feel my first major breakthrough was about 4 years ago when I learnt to ride a unicycle forwards, backwards, bunny hopping and idle ling. Since then I have progressed onto a 5 foot unicycle, learning the same skills and most recently acquired a three wheeled unicycle which is 7 foot. The first time riding at such a height was a bit hairy but once I got over the shock it became really exciting and a fabulous challenge. The most amusing times is when I go to the park and families stop and watch in dismay asking, "How?"

In recent months I have obtained a clown bike, rolla bola and spring loaded stilts, which I have mastered walking, running and hopping on. I am regularly looking for new tricks to learn on all my equipment, as I have found balancing skills have come quite naturally to me and at any opportunity I am outside practicing and pushing myself to new limits. From the age of 2, I have been an avid dancer and performer attending weekly classes, completing in local Eisteddfods and festivals, and playing major roles in local musicals such as 'Michael' in Peter Pan, where I learnt to fly and 'Oliver', in the musical, Oliver. This was a huge role to play, but a bonus was learning to stage fight. I believe the dancing and stage experiences have contributed to my balance and discipline for determination to achieve the circus skills, with me utilising many of these skills in the characters I have pursued.

Juggling has been a different story as the techniques involved, have taken me much longer to grasp. At first I could not get the hang of the rhythm and sequences used to juggle, but with endless teaching techniques viewed from Internet and hours of practice and determination, I eventually taught myself a 3 ball cascade. When I first achieved this I was over the moon and the next day arrived at school showing all my friends, I had lots of people crowding me, wanting to learn this technique, so by the following week I set up a juggling club, and as much as it taught others it also assisted me to get more confident. It was great, and by next morning they had brought in their own juggling equipment.

When I am not at school or attending one of my many hobbies, I enjoy spending time thinking of various routines, costumes and scripts for my own original characters. For inspiration I watch 1970's comedies' and different comic performances featuring talented icons such as Ronnie Barker. Like them I aspire to appear on TV and in Films and hope one day all these skills will assist me in achieving my goals.

Take Care

Rainbow



Greetings From “Across The Pond”!

Back in September I wrote an article for “The Joey” which included a “preview” of a few upcoming clown and circus events I was going to be taking part in. I have just returned home to Davenport, Iowa, USA after nearly 2 months “on the road”, and it is time for me to fill all of you in on the details of the clown and circus events I mentioned the last time I wrote.

I started off my tour in Seaside Heights, New Jersey, USA at the “Clownfest” convention. Greg DeSanto and I were the headliners and received a very warm welcome from the 100 plus clowns in attendance. Our classes and workshops were very well attended and our 30 minute long “clown vignettes” show got lots of laughs! Of course, as it always is when I perform with Greg, I ended up being covered in soap suds, talcum powder, seltzer water, and beaten senseless. What a great clown partner! I loved every minute of it and it was a joy to be able to return to “Clownfest” for its 30th anniversary celebration after having last attended the convention back when it began in 1984!



Just a couple days after returning home from “Clownfest” I made the 90



minute drive to Dubuque, Iowa, USA to attend the Circus Fans of America national convention. I have been a member of the organization for close to 30 years but this was the very first



time I attended one of the annual conventions. The theme throughout the convention was Iowa: circuses that have played here, showmen who were from here, etc. The keynote speaker for the banquet has lived in Iowa for 18 years - me! I hate speaking in public but the folks attending the convention made me feel so welcomed and the President of the CFA, Peter Wagner, directed the “questions and answers” portion of the program so well that I felt perfectly at ease. I thoroughly enjoyed my very first Circus Fans of America convention, both as an attendee and as the keynote speaker!

Wrapping up my tour was the 3rd international clown festival in India! I left home on October 1st for 27 hours of travel time to Mumbai,

India, and returned home November 4th after more than a month of amazing performances, massive crowds, incredible sightseeing, delicious food, and so much more!

In my most recent "GFATP" I had mentioned that we would be performing in 5 cities but that changed at the last minute when Delhi was added to the schedule. We ended up performing in Mangalore, Delhi, Chennai, Hyderabad, Bangalore, and Mumbai, but also visited 6 or 7 other cities as tourists as well. The highlight of our time as tourists for me - and I would dare say for all of us - was making the 4½ hour drive from Delhi to Agra to visit the Taj Mahal!

We began our performances each week on Friday. We would visit hospitals, do shows for companies or organizations, and other such venues. On Saturdays and Sundays we would perform at our main venues, huge 5 story tall shopping malls. We presented short workshops on balloon sculpting and juggling for the patrons, performed stage shows in massive atriums (20 minutes to 1 hour each depending on the mall), and held grand parades throughout each mall. On Mondays we held all day workshops on clowning for jugglers, magicians, actors, and anyone interested in learning about the art. On Tuesdays we flew to the next city on the tour. Wednesdays and Thursdays were set aside for sightseeing...and we visited ancient temples, ornate palaces, museums, zoos, and so much more!

The organizers and producers of the 3rd international clown festival

in India were Martin and Roshni D'Souza. They, along with their remarkable team, had also produced the 1st (2010) and 2nd (2011) international clown festivals in India. I had taken part in the 10 day festival in Mumbai back in 2011 and had an absolutely tremendous time so I had high expectations coming into this festival, but never in a million years could I have imagined just how far those expectations would be exceeded! The 3rd international clown festival in India was everything



I had hoped for - and 100 times more!

I have performed in many shopping malls in my career, but never before have I walked out on stage in a shopping mall to see thousands – yes - thousands of people filling the grand atrium, and lining the railings overlooking the atrium, on all 5 floors of the mall, to watch a clown show I have been a part of! This happened not just once but at every show, in every mall, in every city! It was mind-blowing! Never before have I taken part in a parade through a shopping mall and ended up having hundreds – yes – hundreds of people joining us clowns on the walk! Again, this happened not just once but at every parade in every mall in every city! I have never in my 30 year career been asked to take as many photos,

not just with little children but with “children of ALL ages”, as I was at this festival!



We 6 clowns: Martin “Flubber” D’Souza (India), Deanna “DeeDee” Hartmier (Canada), Val “Puff” Meiners (Canada), Molly “Skiddles” Kleeman (USA), Bekah “Lolo” Hammond, and I, were treated like celebrities everywhere we went! Our faces appeared on stage backdrops and posters, and life-sized displays and billboards, and much more! Even when we went sightseeing we almost always found ourselves getting “VIP” treatment! A person sure could get used to this - hehehehe!

In 3 cities we 6 clowns were joined by an additional performer and it was fun sharing the stage with Chris Bull (England) in Delhi, “Blimpo” (India) in Bangalore, and “Coconut” (Malaysia) in Mumbai. Each and every clown on the tour was a joy to spend time with - on and off the stage.

I have no idea how Martin and Roshni D’Souza can top this - as the official staff tee shirt reads - “30 days, 6 cities, a million people” extravaganza that was the 3rd international clown festival in India! It was truly one of the highlights of my 30 years in full time clowning and I just cannot see how they can possibly make it even bigger and better, but I know Martin and Roshni, and somehow, sometime, some place, they will indeed do it, and I want with all of my heart and soul to be a part of it!

Until next time, love and laughter to you all!

“Toto” Johnson





Time to say goodbye

Today I made the decision to cancel my CI membership for this year.

I would like to say thank you to everyone who has been part of my journey and especially those who have been great friends to myself And my family. I would like to wish you all the very best from the Beadle family.

Take care of yourself.... Keep smiling... I will miss you.... Dananas will be staying as a junior clown as he would miss reading his favourite clown, Toto's articles in the Joey.

Many thanks...Toto, you especially I want to thank.... For making my little man smile....

As I write a few tears are escaping... This has not been an easy decision to make but I have my reasons.

Take care....

Crazy Bananas, Dananas and Squeak .

In the last instalment I looked at the production of “Custard Pies” and the usefulness of Soap Flakes obtainable from Tesco's. This time I am going to explain how some really good “Slosh” can be created that will look good if or when you decide to produce a “Slosh Act”. Although few Clowns today seem to include a slosh Act in their repertoire, the public still seem to enjoy watching the antics of Clowns who create well thought out presentations. Young people seem to like this sort of carry on as witnessed by “Foam Parties” that are organised that involve those attending ending up covered in shaving foam.

Before getting to the recipe for good slosh, a word about the Entrees. It is very easy to mess about with slosh without having an obvious reason for so doing which may appear to be more silly than funny. Some circus clowns have been seen to do a wall papering act in the ring with nowhere to stick the paper. Or they might do a water Slosh act called washing the windows of the Big Top when there are no windows! Some people might say that it matters not, but it is possible to create a logical reason for Clowns to create a mess either in a circus ring or on a theatre stage. A stage presentation is easier to arrange because there is a regular shaped space (the stage) and a proper backdrop to create a scenario. The fact that no wallpaper ever gets stuck on the “wall” doesn't detract from the calamities that comprise the action. In the circus things are different. So a portable backdrop is required around which a story of disasters can be woven. Some continental clowns have twigged this and been able to portray incompetent painters incorporating all the usual gags that audiences appreciate. A wallpapering act in circus could be more sensibly constructed by having a portable plywood backdrop on to which the clowns would attempt to stick wallpaper without success. Technical colleges that teach interior decorating use plywood “walls” for each student to try and wallpaper for serious reasons.

One important point about the use of “Slosh” is the need to clear up the mess afterwards. Ideally one would hope that this job would be done by stagehands whilst the artistes retire to the showers in order to wash away the mess on their costumes and clean up. However, it is worth working out exactly how much “Slosh” is needed for a presentation so as to keep the mess on the floor sheet to a minimum and avoid making too much material unless you are going to repeat the performance the next day at the same venue. As regards the variations on “Slosh” acts, if a wallpapering theme is used then the “Slosh” needs to be white and fairly thick because no one uses coloured water in real life in order to stick wallpaper up. On the other hand, if the act has a Painters theme, then coloured “Slosh” is required. Wallpapering “Slosh” can go into household buckets but Painters “Slosh” is best put in empty paint tubs bearing a name as in real life. This lends an air of reality to the proceedings and hopefully can kid some people into thinking that it really was a gallon of emulsion paint that was just poured inside your bib and brace overalls!

So what about the “Slosh” then? Well, the best quality is produced from sticks of Erasmic shaving soap, plus a few tablespoons of corn flour and a splash of glycerine. Colouring comes from children’s poster paint. The yellow paint makes the “Slosh” look just like real custard. This recipe produces approximately 1 gallon of “Slosh” and is ideal for producing what looks just like real paint. So, let’s make some!

First of all you need to acquire a cheap cheese grater from the 99p shop. Take your stick of Erasmic and grate it up into a 1 gallon bucket. Then add 500ml of really boiling water to the soap and whisk it up until it has dissolved. Then add two tablespoons of corn flour to thicken the brew followed by a squirt of poster colour of choice. A drop of glycerine can also be added at this stage. Then whisk away enthusiastically and watch the frothy material begin to rise. At this stage it is better to reach for the electric whisk as it takes 20 minutes or more to get a bucketful of “Slosh” in a paint-like consistency (no, not of the non drip variety). The result can make you think that it really is paint. Unlike shaving cream (which also has its uses in buckets) the Erasmic variety does not “collapse” in an hour or so when the air bubbles begin to escape. It used to be said that Charlie Cairoli could make a butter churn full of slosh from one stick of Erasmic, but I suggest that this was a ruse to put off nosey people and make “Slosh” a state secret. However, the cost of the materials used for one bucket of “Slosh”, needs to be factored into the cost of presenting a Slosh Act. The cost is not prohibitive but it is a drain on ones time. As you will imagine, to do a Slosh Act 6 days a week really needs equipment to produce the materials on an industrial scale but with planning, infrequent forays into Slosh-ville can be undertaken. As always, mix up a test quantity of this kind of “Slosh” to find out how it works before getting carried away and trying to make 10 gallons of top quality stuff.

Disposing of Erasmic “Slosh” is a little easier than lumpy Lux Flakes “Slosh” as it dissolves better when poured into a drain, etc. However, if you get some good quality black bin bags, the unwanted residues of “Slosh” can be bagged up and put out for the unsuspecting dustmen to take away. When the bags break in the dustcarts shredder, the aromas probably improve what is already in the wagon.

Next time I will draw your attention to a few gags some old and one or two not so old but tried and tested.

Tobee

Joy to the world, My Oath to you! (part 2)

Writing to Patch Adams



Wow, I'm so happy! I just received a postcard from 'Patch

As I was doing more and more research into the history of laughter it became crucial that I get an interview with Dr Adams. Heeding his YouTube invitations I sat down and wrote him a first letter. Meanwhile, I was getting many fruitful contacts with beautiful people in the laughter universe such as Corinne, Steve, Sebastien, Linda, Dr Madan Kataria, etc. I felt I was on the right path!

Finally, one day, a postcard arrived! It was from Russia: Dr Adams! I looked in awe and disbelief. I felt I was holding a piece of history in my hands. As I deciphered his handwriting he wrote about his missions and schedule. He loved my project, but was extremely busy travelling from one continent to another. It would be quite impossible to get an interview with him unless, unless... I joined him on one of his Humanitarian Clowning missions!

Have you ever felt that life was pushing you in one direction and you were the last one to know about it? I was basically clueless.

Oh, oh! Life's about to change...

In a way it was so obvious I had to go. It felt like a childhood dream come true, and yet at the same time, I was full of apprehensions. Doubt, anguish, fear, name it I was feeling it! Who was I to go and live such a venture? How dare I? And what about my wife and daughter? How would this affect them? Us?

I started to ponder the idea and discuss it with friends. Many of them had a good laugh! "Are you serious?" In their eyes it was so obvious I would be going! They said it was so "me". Clueless as I was, I nevertheless pressed on and talked about it with my family. Ten days of separation didn't seem that much to me, but for my wife, after 15 years of marriage, I might as well be going to the moon! Many discussions ensued, at which point, bless her soul, it became obvious even for her that in the grand scheme of things I had to go. I was still the last one unaware of it.

I weighed the pros and cons, the "what if this and that?" And what about...? And on and on and on... In the end it all boiled down to taking one decision. My father had passed away, I was mourning his absence in our lives, and that was that. Life just was. I started to feel that, in the end, when death comes a calling, there are ultimately no

good or bad choices: there are just strings of events. For once in my life, for no reason whatsoever, I would just have think about myself. What did I want? I didn't



As fate would have it, I just walked in a second hand clothing store and there it was.... my tweed jacket

know at that moment that thinking about myself would be the most unselfish act I would ever do! As fate would have it, I just walked in a second hand clothing store and there it was - my tweed jacket

Dare to dare

So I dared! And I dared to dare! I was going to Guatemala to experience Humanitarian Clowning with Dr Patch Adams! And then, suddenly, all sorts of magic coincidences started to happen. As soon as I let go of my fears, hundreds of new loving people connected with my life. My whole aim in life up to that point was to be invisible,

never to be seen or heard, never to ask anyone for anything. Now in a 180 degree turn fashion, I decided to set-up a crowd funding campaign! My sister gave me a hand, and through my Fundraiser I reconnected with friends I hadn't heard off in years. Love was just pouring in.

You know the expression: When it rains it pours! It couldn't have been truer! As life would have it, some of these new friends were also members of a humour association called AATH (Association for Applied and Therapeutic Humour). Patch used to be one of their members. One thing leading to another: I decided to become a member, then I decided to attend their next Annual Conference, which was to be held just after my return from Guatemala. Lastly, I decided to enrol in their Humour Academy. All these new decisions within just a couple of weeks! Toronto, Guatemala, Indiana - the last time I had travelled was 25 years ago when I studied in The Netherlands, and then Paris where I later met my wife. Suddenly my life was about stepping on the gas at every turn, living fully the gift I had been given. My head was spinning!

Guatemala here I come!

I was scared of flying! To deal with my fear I thought about the orphans and the children I was going to help. I had printed the messages of goodwill from my donors and read and reread them. They believed more in me than I did myself; their words warmed my heart and brought tears of hope. If only they had known how much

they were helping me in my journey. I also prepared photos of my wife and daughter and would clutch at them at each turbulence. As we landed, I had to sprint to make my connection, lost my luggage - there are many more stories to tell but I'll save them for later.

In part 3 I'll tell you about the Posada Belen Inn where we stayed: and the heart giving Rob, Emily, Christy, and so many other amazing Humanitarian Clowns!



My puppet Jackö looking at the clouds flowing under the wings on our way to Guatemala.

P.J the Magical clown has drawn a picture of his friend, Bimbo the Vagabond.

Bimbo's seen it, and he has spotted a few things wrong with the picture. Can you spot the 5 mistakes P.J has made?



Trevor Stanley Pharo 6 April, 1954 – 9 November, 2014

Bingo the Clown passed away on 9th November, 2014 after a battle with cancer. He was born in Croydon, and in 1985 staged the first Clown Convention in Bognor Regis, along with Leon and Margaret Lawrence which was to continue for another 10 years and after. Bingo was the first British clown to entertain Arab audiences in Kuwait, and he made numerous stage and television appearances, most notably at the Children's Royal Variety Show at the Victoria Palace Theatre in 1988. He also made many connections with US and Canadian clowns who also came to the clown conventions in Bognor Regis.

Before he passed away he fulfilled some of his dreams to marry his partner Ian Bromiow and to go on a cruise. (Best clown wishes goes to Ian).

Those that were following him on face book saw beautiful pictures of his cruise and of Trevor's natural garden and his dogs. I personally remember Bingo from the first clown convention at Bognor and was impressed by his hard work and vision. He was particularly sensitive to children, mine and Piccolo's being no exception. In his early days he used to promote Billy Smart's Circus and later started clowning under the direction of Billy Gay. He will always be remembered for his kindness and his work with the Variety Club of Great Britain, the Anthony Nolan Trust, and the children's charity Dream Flight.

The celebration of his life at St Mary's Church, Storrington, was conducted with our very own wise and charismatic Reverend Roly Bain who talked about his good work in his welcome, and also the direct and honest address was conducted by Rev Kathryn Windslow. The clown poem was recited and also a beautiful recorded version of 'Send in the Clowns' by Stephen Sondheim and sung by Dame Judy Dench, was played.

It was quite strange as the family had had a private cremation that morning, so there was no coffin, but Zaz, the only clown in motley and from Bognor originally, did him proud with his memories of an 8 year old at Bognor who was so inspired by clowns that he became a clown himself and running his own Circus Pzaz! There were many familiar faces there such as, Don Stacey, Martin Zippo Burton, David Hibbling, a ringmaster with Giffords circus, Patricia Pearce, MBE, from Dreamflight, Nivan Lawson-Lawson's circus, PC Rodney, Tatters, Mattie Faint, Matt Zaz, friend of clowns Eric Jack,

Leonora Piper to name but a few! Ian thanked us for coming. He is very genuine and I wish him well. Trevor Pharo, Bingo the Clown, will be missed in the Clown world and I hope he is making others laugh wherever he may be! We were honoured to have him in our very own oldest Clown club of Clowns International.

Susi Oddball

Granite and Grapefruit, Glowns. By Hal Brooks.

Nobody had heard of a Glown before. An old man past ninety thought it sounded funny so decided to write about it. The nearest he got to defining a Glown was, a funny person who with an enormous favourite scarf wrapped around his neck, denoting, he was suffering from a severe cold and was horse. Not a deliberate mistake, but true. He was suffering from delusions of course, but the local NHS showed an interest in the condition.

One of their doctors had previously been a vet in Newmarket, and was familiar with the ailment, especially on one tiny jockey named Freddie Flatbottham, a favourite with bookmakers who favoured long odds, and nobody had longer odds than Freddie. Unfortunately they were just too long to go into their satchels. Apart from riding horses, Freddie had studied horse fleas in great detail. In fact the work he'd done on the rarely seen, self-combusting, 'Flueee,' had been commented upon by the horse breeder's magazine, "Gallops Galore".

An interesting discovery found that the rear end on the flea was cooler than its front was. Where the horses slept they could be found backed up close against warm pipes of the stable's central heating system. On Derby Days and Ascot when feelings were running high, a special lookout was kept on the highly strung mounts simply itching to get going! These special events drew enormous crowds and provided a real outing for the ordinary flea. Where it could be easy to change direction as the crowds brushed past each other to put their bets on.

Granite and Grapefruit were finding it hard to find places to work these days. All the small variety theatres were closed and even the humour seems to have changed too. Knock about humour was being replaced with 'Stand Up'. The clowning, juggling, mime and clever tricks that were hawked around the small theatres were now gone also. The handy bonus of an occasional children's party were being replaced by expensive electric toys where the child was encouraged to play by himself.

It was Granite, the hard one of the duo, who came up with the idea of making a Flea Circus. From trying to be big to being ridiculously small, they agreed to try it. Modern television and magnification seemed to be their best bet. They would build a luxury flea sized stage and plug it into wherever they were working. Sound unit as well. They scoured local Flea Markets for their props, hoping to keep an authentic appearance from the start.

An earlier funny man, Michael Bentine, had charmed the Nation with his own invention on television. So our two old circus mates had their work cut out trying to do alternative tricks just to be different. With their tiny band of performers, it was the vaulting horse that was being considered first. They solved this problem by burying a small torch battery under the taking off point. A slight shock would be the signal to leap up into the air. A stronger one would deal with any insubordination or serious confrontation by the performer.

Grapefruit knew someone who

trained mice. Wearing a striped jacket, and along with a synchronised recording of snarls and roars, they could have a performing animal act as well! There seemed to be great potential there. Granite thought with two or three fleas on piggyback wearing tights, would be an attraction anywhere. They contacted Equity, the Actors Union, to see if there were any contractual difficulties in their plans. As long as they could prove none of their cast posed any threat to other performers, they were cleared.

The business had so changed that it was thought advisable to seek a go between, an agent. That was tricky. In the good old days when they were doing their own knockabout act they earned enough one week to get them on to another theatre, and also put a bit aside for retirement and any falling onto hard times. Neither had married, the excitement of making it big at the beginning, had gradually been diluted by experience, and not having that bit of luck, seemingly so important in show-business, as in many other walks of life.

They bought a book about agents and found it was of little use because not many even acknowledged your enquiry. A new approach was needed. They bought a small generator and a tent. Now they were at least mobile and could travel about like any small circus would. With village greens and communal halls particularly in mind. It soon became apparent that the mention of fleas, whatever their gender, or if they had actual performing skills or not, conversation abruptly came to an end. A few imaginative members of WI groups discussing a possible booking, felt bound to have an itch somewhere or other. It was the 'other' that seemed to trigger the

anxiety feeling!

It seemed sensible to realise then that although there was no actual brick wall for them to bang their heads against, it definitely felt like that. During the evening meal in their show business digs they were staying in, they brought up their doubts about carrying on. Someone suggested they put to use their obvious musical abilities. He reminded Grapefruit of the time he used to bang a drum bigger than himself. Granite had a decent voice and could tap dance a little whilst playing a shortened version of a tin whistle. All helpful attributes if you were into musicals.

The duo felt enormously relieved, as if a big drum, half-filled with water had drained away, lightening their joint load considerably. They felt a groundswell of relief. They were going to perform themselves, again. They raffled off the Flea Circus, purchased a new whistle and screwed taps onto Granite's size thirty two clown boots. They had decided to be different. The word Busker used to describe a type of self-employed musician fitted their new act, "The Glowns", perfectly.

Playing to theatre queues, working the Underground and anywhere there were people waiting to be performed to. With proper licences when needed and moving on when told to by the law, they were launched. It was a different world from the theatre stage, but to a real pro, the whole world is a stage. Someone else had coined that phrase and our duo were content to leave it at that.

© Hal Brooks 2014



When I retired from active entertainment a few years ago, I joined a local 'creative writers' circle and continued with my second love, writing. Some short stories I have written, have received favorable response on the whole. Here is one of them. It is nothing to do with clowning or entertainment. Just a short read while you drink your coffee or wait for the kids to come out of the bathroom! Enjoy.

FOLLY SENT ME

By

Monty Wells.

The bitter wind blasted frozen snowflakes at me. The uncovered part of my face was stung by the horizontally blown, tiny ice particles and I no longer bothered to brush the settling white covering from the front of my overcoat. I must have looked like a walking snowman. The problem was, there was no one to see me. Not that anyone could see or be seen for more than a couple of yards through that swirling white curtain. I was on a lonely, unlit country road, if it still was a road, and I was cursing myself for being an old idiot. I should have stayed at the railway station. Delayed train or not, it would have been safer and far more comfortable sitting in a draughty waiting room than facing these arctic conditions that had evolved so quickly in the last half hour. My gloved fingers, thrust deep in my overcoat pockets, were becoming increasingly painful. I was wearing shoes made for city pavements, not the five inches of drifting snow that I was now ploughing through.

God! What a fool I was.

My foot caught a trailing bramble or something and I was catapulted forward. Some undergrowth, topped with a good few inches of snow, cushioned my fall and I lay breathless for a few moments. Then, realising I was unhurt, I attempted to regain my feet. Easier said than done. After each failed effort I made on that icy surface, I ended up flat on my face. After a while I stopped trying and I found myself thinking it might be a good idea to stay where I was for a while....perhaps have a little sleep and wake up in the daylight...when the snow had stopped and I could get back to civilisation....find a nice little restaurant....have a full English....probably two or three cups of coffee.....

"Excuse me sir can I help?"

"Yes. Another coffee and two more slices of toast"

A hand shook my shoulder

"Wake up sir. You need help. Can I be of assistance?"

I opened my eyes. Peering down at me was an elderly gentleman, perhaps a few years older than myself.

"Come along sir. Get in the car. This is no night for sleeping in a ditch."

I struggled to get upright. I was stiff and felt slightly dizzy. My rescuer placed a hand

under each armpit and, with a strength that belied his years, lifted me bodily and turned me toward the road. There was a car. Just an ordinary, run of the mill, saloon car. Both driver and passenger doors were open and normal lights were on, but the whole interior seemed to have a welcoming, beckoning warmth. In fact, and I don't know why, I felt that music being played on a fairground organ should have been coming from it.

"Slip your overcoat off sir. It will dry out on the back seat, and your scarf."

Before I had a chance to say otherwise he had divested me of my outer garments and I was sitting in the front passenger seat, safety belted and feeling a trifle warmer already. My benefactor walked round the car, slid into the driver's seat, slammed his door and started the engine. Two wipers made fan shapes in the half inch of snow covering the windscreen. The car moved forward and gained speed. After staring intently ahead for a moment or two he shot a sideways glance at me. It was obvious that my suit, collar and tie and overcoat on the back seat was not the usual attire of a vagabond, used to sleeping rough.

"Come far?" he asked

"London."

"Oh!" He still stared ahead.

"Oh, no! I haven't walked from London." I chuckled. I was feeling better. "I've walked from Collingham Junction.

"That's still far enough." He said.

"Yes." And, feeling some sort of explanation was due: "I got the London train to Collingham Junction O.K. When I arrived, wouldn't you know it? the local train has got an hour's delay. I'd have to hang about for over an hour to go just three stations down the line. Being clever I thought I could get round to the bus stop. Getting the local bus can sometimes be almost as quick as the train. It's only a ten minute walk across the park. This lot started just as I was leaving the station and instead of going back I carried on. Couldn't see a thing. Probably went through the wrong gate on the other side of the park. Leads onto some farmland and, well..."

He nodded understandingly.

"You work in London?"

"Good Heavens, No! I retired some years ago and I rarely go to London these days. It's just that today is rather special. It's the anniversary of my late sister Florence's birthday and I always make a point of going up to the crematorium in Town on her birthday. They have the remembrance book open and er ..you know? My wife and I usually drive up but Millie - that's my wife - she's just got over a bout of flu, so I thought it best if she stayed behind, and I'd give public transport a chance. Huh! Look, if we find a pub or something, pull over and we'll get something to warm us up from the inside"

"What's your tittle, sir?"

"Well a brandy wouldn't go amiss."

He indicated the shelf under the dashboard in front of me.

"Help yourself."

I took out a shiny silver hip flask. Strange I hadn't noticed it before. I unscrewed the cap

that doubled as a measure and poured some of the spirit into the cup. I'm no connoisseur but it smelt like an expensive cognac. I offered him the cup.

"No thanks. I'm driving."

I tilted my head and poured the neat spirit straight down. The result was similar to being dumped into a sauna bath. The warmth emanated from my stomach to the tip of every extremity.

"Wow!" I exhaled heavily.

"Feeling better?"

"Much!"

"You were close to your sister?" His eyes never left the road

"We certainly were. Florence was only seven years older, but she was a like a little mother to me. She would take me for short walks in my pushchair, play games with me. When I was at school, on a couple of occasions, she had a quiet word with a school bully and I was left in peace. Florence was no tomboy but she was a good pal. We had the same sense of humour. Always laughing at jokes we'd heard or made up years ago. When Millie and I had a bit of financial trouble Florence put money into my account from time to time but refused to cash the repayment cheques I sent her later and wouldn't discuss the matter with me. I still miss her."

I reached for the glittering hip flask and raised a questioning eyebrow to the man behind the wheel. He nodded and I poured and drank another stiff tot. I realised the drink had loosened my tongue and I had spoken freely of family matters with a perfect stranger but I was past caring.

"When did your sister die?"

"About four years ago"

"Alone?"

"No, I was at her bedside when she died."

"I'm sure she appreciated that"

"I hope so"

The car slowed down and came to a halt. I wiped condensation from the side window and looked out. The snow had stopped and the lights glowed from behind the curtains of the bay window of my house. I could just hear the faint strains of Mozart's Horn Concerto No 4. Millie was happily listening to her favourite C.D.

I retrieved my overcoat and scarf from the back seat and stepped from the car.

"Come in and meet my wife. I'm sure we can fix you up with a meal or something. I need to pay you for the petrol you've used, I mean...."

He was already determinedly shaking his head.

"No, I'm sorry but I still have urgent business to do tonight and you owe me nothing."

"But I really can't thank you enough" I said, "I could have died out there. And I don't even know your name."

"I'm Bernard"

"Well I think you are a saint, Bernard." I laughed at my unintended joke. "Thank you again"

I gave him a cheery wave and started up my garden path then I paused and turned as a thought struck me.

"Where are you bound for? I mean, that road I was on was virtually a farm track. You surely weren't just out for a drive in that weather? And how did you know this address? I never told you where I lived."

He smiled at me. A light from the dashboard bathed his face in an ethereal glow.

"Folly sent me!" He engaged gear and the car moved smoothly away.

"Hey! Just a minute!" I called after him, but the vehicle had gained speed and disappeared into the darkness.

I stood dumbstruck. In our conversation I had referred to Florence by name frequently but I had never mentioned the fact that in my infant years I was unable to pronounce her abbreviated name, Florrie, and it always came out as ' Folly'. It became my jokey pet nickname for her, rarely used by our parents and, outside the family, it was unknown.

A break in the clouds allowed a brilliant silver moon to shine through, clearly showing a stretch of road covered in a mantle of virgin snow with not a footprint or tyre mark as far as the eye could see.

© Monty Wells

Ramsgate 2011



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Sonny Fossett 1931 - 2014

Sonny Fossett as we all know him was born on 4th May 1931, at Henley in Arden. He was the youngest of seven children, hence the adopted name of 'Sonny'. He left school at a young age to work with his father, who was hired by farms with his steam engine to help with all the harvests. He would ride in the Coke and was given the nickname 'Cokey'.

He was called into National Service at the age of 18 and sent to train at Catterick Garrison Camp in North Yorkshire. In the Army he took his driving lessons and became a Tank Officer. He then became the chauffeur to the wife of his Commanding Officer, in Germany.

He completed his National Service at the age of 20 and then spent time with the Fossett family, not only clowning (all the Fossetts in those days were great clowns) but also horse riding.

Although born as Ronald Mole, with Fossett's he started a long-term relationship with Auntie Ellen Fossett (Jim Fossett's sister) and from then on was always part of the family and known as Sonny Fossett. As well as looking after Fossett's elephants at Alton Towers in the early days, a period he was always fond of reminiscing about, he helped Jim Fossett and his family, make and start, James Brothers Circus which travelled for many years mainly in the Midlands and Lincolnshire.

Betty Cottle (nee Fossett) had spent much of her childhood with Uncle Sonny and Auntie Ellen, so once her husband Gerry started the Gerry



Cottle's Circus, Sonny joined the show as principal clown working alongside Jimmy Scott, Little Bean (Gerald Buttery), Tommy Tucker, Willie Cottrell, Colin Enos and many others and also acting as a mentor for Mathew Ware (Matto) in the early days. With Gerry Cottle's Circus he not only travelled the UK but also the World with foreign trips to Oman, Bahrain, Sharjah, Iceland, Hong Kong, Singapore and Malaysia. Having learnt mechanic skills in the Army and with natural skills as a carpenter, he was not only a very loyal performer but also a very important hard working person

on a big travelling Circus.

After Auntie Ellen died, Sonny met Claire King who had joined the Circus through her love of horses, Sonny and Claire had two lovely daughters, Gemma and Sonya, eventually settling down at the Gerry Cottle Headquarters at Addlestone Moor in Surrey, where not only was he caretaker but he was also responsible for a lot of the maintenance whilst Claire looked after any animals that sometimes had to be left behind.

Since the Cottle family have moved to Wookey Hole in Somerset, Sonny remained in Surrey with his family, attending all the Galas and Fetes where he was an annual attraction with his famous Comedy Car. Apart from being a very friendly and brilliant clown, Sonny was very popular with both other artistes and all the staff who went to him day and night asking for his assistance. He always had time for everyone.

Sonny enjoyed being with his family, especially his 7 year old granddaughter, Maisie. He always made them laugh, as the clown in him never went. They will all miss his funny little ways. He was a loving father and grandfather.

He passed away on Saturday 6th December 2014.

Andy Payne

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Clown Name: _____ Full Personal Name: _____

-

Print Address: _____

Tel: _____ Mobile: _____ Fax: _____

E-Mail: _____ Web: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Subscription Rates

Amount	Membership Type	Please Tick	Notes re additional dues in certain circumstances	Amount in Total Being Sent
£30 (18yrs old +)	Provisional Clown First Application Provisional Clown Renewal Full Clown[UK}Renewal Full Clown {overseas with electronic [PDF] copy)*	[<input type="checkbox"/>] [<input type="checkbox"/>] [<input type="checkbox"/>] [<input type="checkbox"/>]	For New Applications please add Egg Voucher	
£15	Student Clown (16yrs – 18yrs)	[<input type="checkbox"/>]		
£20	UK Only Senior Clowns (65+) Friends of Clowns (UK) Friends of Clowns {overseas with electronic [PDF] copy)*	[<input type="checkbox"/>] [<input type="checkbox"/>] [<input type="checkbox"/>]		
£10	Junior (under 16) <i>Parents/Gaurdians signature Required</i>	[<input type="checkbox"/>]	Parents/Gaurdians Signature: -----	
£0	Upgrade request. Provisional to Full Clown (lease provide note of event attended)	[<input type="checkbox"/>]		
£10	Egg Voucher. (Not required for renewals) Postage needs to be added	[<input type="checkbox"/>]	to reclaim having your face registered in our egg collection	
£10	*For year's printed versions of The Joey posted quarterly (<i>This applies to Overseas Only</i>)	[<input type="checkbox"/>]	You will receive a PDF copy if not selected.	
£4.50	Egg Postage UK (per egg)	[<input type="checkbox"/>]	This is for all first egg orders being sent for inclusion in CI's Egg Collection and all further UK Egg orders	
£7.00	Egg Postage for Overseas Delivery (per egg)	{ <input type="checkbox"/>]	This is for all overseas Egg orders other than those for CI's Egg Collection. (see above)	
			Total	£

I wish to pay my membership by Standing Order []

(Please note a years subs should be paid by Cash/Cheque/Postal Order – payable to Clowns International prior to standing order commencing. Standing orders should be set up so that by end of December of previous subs year all subs for following year are paid). Please complete the Standing Order form and take it to your Bank – Please send a copy to membership officer

I enclose my Membership Subscription for £_____ (cheques made payable to Clowns International.)

Overseas Clowns please send STERLING Money Order/Bank Draft or by postal order payable to
CLOWNS INTERNATIONAL OR pay by PAYPAL treasurer@clowns-international.com

Return This form to: The Membership Officer, Clowns International, 4a Downpatrick Road, Strangford, Co.Down,Northern Ireland. BT30 7LZ

Do you know a Clown who isn't a member?

Then why not encourage them to join?

Copy these pages and give them to a friend

Constitution Changes

A number of changes are proposed to the constitution of Clowns International to bring into the 21st century. Below is the constitution with the changes in bold and items being removed are shown as strike through text.

CLOWNS INTERNATIONAL CONSTITUTION

1] NAME

The Club will be known as CLOWNS INTERNATIONAL.

2] AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The aims of Clowns International are to maintain, improve, promote and develop the Art of Clowning.

The Club will work towards the following aims:

- i] To educate and update established and new clowns through workshops, lectures, clown shows, published information and various Clowns International events.
- ii] To promote Clowning to the general public through appearances at events and providing information on Clowning.
- iii] To support The Clowns' Gallery Ltd, operating as the Clowns Museum, by providing financial assistance and provision of the Club's collection to enable a record of the art of clowning to be maintained for the members and to educate the general public through the museum.
- iv] To support The Clowns' Benevolent Fund Ltd in its charitable objectives.

To further these aims, Clowns International may:

- a] Obtain, collect and receive money by way of contributions, donations, legacies, grants and any other lawful method, and accept and receive gifts of property of any description (whether subject to any special trusts or not).
- b] Receive gifts of items of any description on an outright basis, otherwise a register of loaned items to be maintained. Any gifted items may be added to the collection or sold to raise money for the club's aims. It is desirable that an acquisition fund be established from the monies raised through the sale of items to enable further purchases.

3] MEMBERSHIP

To ensure all present and future members receive fair and equal treatment, all members are subject to the regulations of the Constitution, and by joining the Club will be deemed to have accepted these regulations.

Members will be enrolled in one of the following categories of membership:

Full Members

Senior Members (Clowns 65 years of age or older)

Provisional Members

STUDENT MEMBERS (ALL CLOWNS IN FULL TIME EDUCATION – 16+)

Junior Members (Clowns under the age of 16 years)

Friends of Clowns

Honorary Members [President, Vice-Presidents and Life Members]

Fellows of Clowns International

Any member or non-member who registers with Clowns International and pays any relevant registration fee and thereafter an annual membership fee may, at the discretion of the Committee, be made a “Fellow of Clowns International”. “Fellows of Clowns International” will receive an appropriate Award and receive other benefits as decided by the committee from time to time. “Fellows” can be nominated or can nominate any other member for election as Officers or Committee Members of Clowns International. They shall be entitled to vote and shall receive all benefits accorded to Full Clown Membership.

4] SUBSCRIPTIONS

Membership fees will be set annually by the Treasurer subject to the agreement of the membership at an Annual General Meeting. Subscriptions are due annually on 1 January.

5] OFFICERS OF THE CLUB

The Elected Officers of the Club are:

- i] Chairperson
- ii] Vice-Chairperson
- iii] Secretary
- iv] Treasurer
- v] Membership Secretary

The Club’s President and Vice-Presidents have the right to attend Committee Meetings and receive minutes should they wish to.

Other members including a representative for Friends of Clowns will be co-opted onto the Committee by the Officers to undertake work as necessary for the benefit of the Club.

The **ALL** co-opted members may vote at committee meetings.

A representative of The Clowns' Gallery Ltd and The Clowns' Benevolent Fund Ltd will also be regarded as a member of the Committee. [Notice of Meeting and Agenda to be sent to the Company Secretaries of each to alert them of the possibility of attending].

Officers will be elected annually at the Annual General Meeting. Any fully paid member over the age of 16 years can be elected as an Officer.

All Officers may offer themselves for re-election annually

The Honorary President and Vice-Presidents may hold office permanently. Additional Vice-Presidents may be proposed by the Committee for election at an Annual General Meeting. Members wishing to propose any member for an Honorary position (such as Honorary President, Honorary Vice-President or Honorary Life Member) must make such a proposal in writing to the Clowns International Committee at least eight weeks prior to the Annual General Meeting. The Committee will then bring their recommendation to the Annual General Meeting.

6] MANAGEMENT AND QUORUM

The Club will be managed by the Elected Officers. Additional members may be co-opted on to the Management Committee by the Chairperson as necessary to undertake any specific project work.

The Management Committee will meet at the request of the Chairperson through the Secretary and will meet no less than three times a year.

Meetings can be attended by committee members either in person or by **ELECTRONIC MEANS WHERE AVAILABLE. ALL ELECTED MEMBERS SHOULD ATTEND IN PERSON AT LEAST ONCE PER TERM WERE POSSIBLE.**

The Quorum required business to be carried out at Management Committee meetings will consist of at least three elected officers.

In all instances the Chairperson will retain the casting vote

The Management Committee will have powers to appoint sub committees as necessary and appoint advisors to the Management Committee as necessary to fulfil its business.

7] FINANCE

All the Club's monies will be banked in an account held in the name of Clowns International.

Any cheque drawn against the Club's funds should bear the signatures of the Treasurer and one other Officer nominated in accordance with the Bank Mandate.

The Club's Treasurer will be responsible for all finances of Clowns International.

The financial year of the Club will end on 31 December.

A verified, by **SOMEONE APPOINTED BY COMMITTEE**, Statement of Annual Account will be presented by the Treasurer at the Annual General Meeting following the end of the financial year.

The income and property of the club shall be applied solely towards the objects of Clowns International as set forth in this Constitution, and no portion thereof shall be paid **OR TRANSFERRED** directly or indirectly by way of dividend, bonus or otherwise by way of profit to any member of the Club, provided that nothing herein shall prevent the payment in good faith of reasonable and proper remuneration to any Officer, Member or servant of the Club or the repayment of out-of-pocket expenses. Any item of expenditure must be authorised by a majority of the Committee at a properly constituted meeting.

8] ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting (a Meeting) will be held ~~in March~~ **WITHIN THE FIRST THREE MONTHS OF THE YEAR** of every year unless otherwise advised.

Notice of such a Meeting will be given at least 28 clear days beforehand by the Club's Secretary to all members and will include:

The Agenda, Reports from all the Elected Offices, The Financial Accounts, Reports on Agenda items.

Members who are unable to attend have the right to pass their comments on to the Secretary for consideration at a Meeting.

Postal / **EMAIL** votes for matters to be voted upon at Annual General Meetings are subject to the Club's Regulations of the Constitution:

- i) The Member being fully paid up and applying to the Secretary not less than 14 clear days from the date of the Annual General Meeting.
- ii) The Member supplying a stamped addressed envelope for Postal Voting.
- iii) If using email then the email address must be known by the secretary and have been verified as genuine prior to voting.
- iv) The voting slip is returned, fully and correctly completed to the Secretary not less than 7 clear days before the Annual General Meeting.
- v) Should the Member, after voting by post **OR EMAIL**, subsequently

attend the Annual General Meeting, the Member must inform the Secretary of his/her presence, and the postal / **EMAIL** vote withdrawn. Failure to do so will result in the Member's vote being made null and void for that year

Agenda items requiring a vote at an Annual General Meeting will be passed only if there is a two-thirds majority, obtained by members present and valid postal / **EMAIL** votes.

Nominations for a particular post of the Management Committee should be sent to the Secretary ~~by 1 January~~ **28 DAYS** prior to the Annual General Meeting. In the absence of a particular nomination, that post may be nominated from "the floor".

Elections of Officers will take place at Annual General Meetings.

All members, **WITH THE EXCEPTION OF PROVISIONAL MEMBERS**, over the age of 16 years have the right to vote at the Annual General Meeting. **THIS INCLUDES JUNIOR MEMBERS WHO ARE 16 BUT HAVE YET TO TRANSFER TO FULL MEMBERSHIP.**

The Quorum for an Annual General Meeting will consist of the Chairperson or Vice-Chairperson, Secretary and ~~20 Full Members or Friends of Clowns over the age of 16 years~~ **15% of the current voting membership.**

9] EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETINGS

The Management Committee has the right to call Extraordinary General Meetings (an Extraordinary Meeting) in addition to the Annual General Meetings. The procedure for an Extraordinary General Meeting will be as for an Annual General Meeting but its Quorum being: Chairperson or Vice-Chairperson, Secretary and ~~20 Full Members or Friends of Clowns over the age of 16 years~~ **15% OF THE CURRENT VOTING MEMBERSHIP.**

Members also have the right to call an Extraordinary General Meeting. The written request of ~~20 Full Members or Friends of Clowns over the age of 16 years~~ **15% OF THE CURRENT VOTING MEMBERSHIP.** is required in order for the Management Committee to call an Extraordinary Meeting. The procedure and Quorum for such an Extraordinary Meeting will be as for an Annual General Meeting. Should the Management Committee agree to calling such a Meeting, only the proposed subject may be discussed at that Meeting.

Postal **AND EMAIL** votes for matters to be voted upon at Extraordinary Meetings are subject to the Club's Constitution.

10] DISCIPLINARY MATTERS AND APPEALS

All concerns, allegations or reports of inappropriate behaviour will be noted and responded to swiftly and appropriately in accordance with the Club's Constitution.

All complaints regarding the behaviour of members will be presented and submitted in writing to the Secretary. The Management committee will meet to hear complaints as soon as practical.

The Chairperson has the right to suspend a member pending the next meeting to be held. **THE MEMBER BEING SUSPENDED MUST BE TOLD AS SOON AS PRACTICALLY POSSIBLE OF THE SUSPENSION.**

The outcome of the complaint hearing will be made known in writing as soon as possible to the person who made the complaint and the member against whom the complaint was made.

There will be a right of appeal to the Management Committee following any decision announced. That appeal will be considered by the Committee as soon as possible after receiving due notice.

11] AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

Changes to the Constitution can be passed only at an Annual General Meeting or Extraordinary General Meeting by a two-thirds majority of all members present or with valid postal **AND EMAIL** votes.

12] DISSOLUTION

A resolution to dissolve the Club can be passed only at an Annual General Meeting or Extraordinary General Meeting by a two-thirds majority of all members present or with valid postal **AND EMAIL** votes.

In the event of dissolution, any assets of the Club that remain after satisfying all debts and liabilities will be transferred to another club with similar objectives to those of Clowns International.

13] GENERAL

Clowns International is an equal opportunities club not discriminating on the grounds of sex, race or creed, and is non profit making and non political.

Trevor Pharo - Bingo the Clown— by Don Stacy
A man who devoted his spare time to charities

To many who met him as a businessman, Trevor Pharo, who died on November 8, 2014, aged sixty, was a charismatic salesman specialising in graphics machinery and supplies. To others, he was simply Bingo the Clown, a man who dedicated most of his spare time to entertaining for charity.

He had three children of his own and adored entertaining kids, supporting several children's charities, among them The Antony Nolan Trust, Dreamflight, and The Variety Club of Great Britain.



Born in Croydon, Surrey, on April 6th 1954, he fell in love with the sawdust ring when Billy Smart's Circus came to town for the winter of 1972/73. Its mighty big top had come down for the last time in 1971 but the show made two winter appearances at the Fairfield Halls in Croydon before closing down, ostensibly for ever.

At the age of eighteen, he took on the task of persuading shop-keepers to place posters in their windows, an arduous job, coming under the influence of Billy Gay, the show's advance publicity manager who doubled as a clown. From him he learnt the rudiments of clowning, got himself a red fright wig, costumes and a red nose, and entered into a lifelong semi-professional clown career, largely self-taught from his observations of human nature and the British sense of humour.

Year by year he took on more and more weekend clown jobs entertaining at kiddies parties, at the local carnivals or galas, etc. and when he lived in Bognor Regis, he appeared at the local amusement park Rainbow's End, and at an amusement park in Littlehampton run by a member of the Smart circus family. When Billy Smart's Circus was resurrected in 1993, he was on hand as publicity clown to help the launch. From 1979, most of his appearances in clown motley were managed by his agent and fellow clown Don Stacey, me. He became the first British clown to appear before Arab audiences in Kuwait and went to the United Arab Emirates two or three times.

I commented, 'He had a routine involving a seemingly-empty metallic vase from which he would eventually produce water. In A1 Ain's Hilli Puné City park in the UAE, this went down like a lead balloon, as he continually lamented "No Water, no Water", I had to point out to him that the audiences were mystified instead of amused, since he was working on a raised stage above a pool containing millions of litres of water!'

He made many stage appearances, including the highlight of his career, appearing in the "Children's Royal Variety Show" at the Victoria Palace theatre, London, in 1988, rubbing shoulders with big stars like Ken Dodd, Bros, Jeremy Beadle (with whom he later raised funds for Dreamflight) and his idol Norman Wisdom.

His television appearances included a session with Kilroy Silk and 50 clowns, the "Wogan" show with Howard Keele. "Bargain Hunt" with 3 other clowns and Tim Wonnacott. and was also suitably humiliated - like so many others - by Anne Robinson,

that most acid-tongued of presenters.

For years he revelled in raising funds for The Variety Club of Gt. Britain, at that organisation's annual Sandown Park Racecourse Meeting.

In America, he was invited as one of three British guest clowns to lecture to budding young clowns at the annual Clown Camp, held in the University campus of Wisconsin-La Crosse.

His efforts for charities connected with children earned him a special award from "The World's Fair", the circus and fairground newspaper. This was significant because not only was he connected to circus by his clown work, but he also had fairground folk in his family history*

While living in Brighton and Hove, he became the promoter of two big charity nights in Hove, staged under the big top of Zippo's Circus, Martin Burton, director of Zippo's and a fellow clown for many years, said of his efforts there: "We were happy to lend our show to charitable causes, and Trevor brought in locally famous drag artistes, singers and other performers, including the great Brighton and Hove (actually) Gay Men's Choir, all interplaying with our own world-class circus acts. They were two magical events, raising lots of money for worthy causes". Norman Barrett, OBE, shared Ringmastering duties with the outrageous transvestite performer Masie Trollette.

Not content with merely fundraising at events for the Dreamflight charity, Bingo the Clown annually accompanied plane loads of terminally ill children on their holiday of a lifetime to the Walt Disney theme park in Orlando, Florida, entertaining them on the flights and throughout their visit, forsaking his own vacations. For his dedication, Jeremy Beadle presented him with a special award in Blackpool.

The biggest event for which Trevor/Bingo will always be remembered came in April, 1985, when he conjured up for the first time, 'The International Clown Convention'. He spent months working on the idea, aided by two doubting friends, agent Don Stacey and fellow clown David Barnes, of turning said little seaside home town into a haven for clowns, a Clownsville on Sea.

Somehow, but sheer personality mostly, he enthused a host of people to support the plan, including the Arun Leisure and Tourism department, The Variety Club of Great

Britain (who sent there coachloads of children), Bognor Regis Chamber of Commerce, financial sponsors, and even the English Tourist Board, and its 1985 'England Entertains' promotion.

It resulted in an amazing weekend of mayhem and fun, attended by most of the town's population and 100,000 visitors, with shows, exhibitions, competitions and events, all in the name of clowning. Visitors arriving on the outskirts of town found that the "Bognor Regis" signs had been replaced by "Clown Town" ones, and all members of the local police constabulary wore red noses for the weekend. There was a huge street parade, led by Bingo the Clown, with the public sporting red noses and clown costumes, and the event's President was the actor and comic Ron Moody and the local shops found



their tills ringing as never before and the local councillors rubbing their hands with glee.

Trevor's idea had become reality and an enormous publicity draw for Bognor Regis, gaining national and international publicity on television and radio and in countless newspapers. The Convention just had to go on again the following year, and for about a decade afterwards was still giving Bognor a boost, aided by the appearances of stars like Jeremy Beadle, Norman Wisdom and Ken Dodd. Trevor Pharo stood back after five years, and the committee of Clowns International, the British-based organisation for clowns, took over until funding proved a problem, with the council unable to subsidise it and major sponsorship drying up. Later Clowns International took the event to other towns, but Bognor, being relatively small, was ideally situated to stage it and years later a smaller version came back, supported until last year by the Butlin's holiday camp. So big an event was it in Bognor Regis, one year the council claimed it had attracted audiences of 200,000, and as many as 700 clowns, with 300 American clowns being flown in on a specially chartered plane

Over the years many locals have probably forgotten that it was all down to Trevor Pharo for reviving the town's popularity. In past years it had earned the favour of Queen Victoria, who was to say "Dear Little Bognor" rather fondly, although the Prince -Regent had a different view, and exclaimed "Buggar Bognor!".

Mr. Pharo, who succumbed to cancer on November 8, leaves a daughter and two sons, his former wife Angela, and his partner of the past quarter century, Ian Bromilow, to whom he was married in September.

He had specially requested no flowers from mourners, but generous donations to his favourite charity, Dreamflight.

Trevor Pharo, born in Croydon, Surrey, on April 6, 1954, died at Storrington, West Sussex, on November 8, 2014.



Downpatrick, Co. Down 23rd to 28th September 2015

Downpatrick is a small rural town in County Down. The festival will bring clowning to its streets, schools, nurseries, nursing homes and businesses. Excitement in the town is already growing as Bubblz and Tilly have already visited lots of businesses seeking contributions to fund the festival. Funding has also been applied for from various grant awarding bodies but the outcome of those applications is not yet known. Therefore many decisions about the shape of the festival cannot be made yet. I will release further details on our Facebook members' page as they become confirmed. If you do not use Facebook and want an update, call me.

Arrival from noon on the 23rd.

Accommodation:

Free accommodation for working clowns is available in a premises owned by the Scouts. It is in small dormitory type rooms. The buildings do have central heating. There are also showers, toilets, a kitchen and a social space. Beds are limited to 40 and priority will be given to working clowns. The camp is about 7 miles from town and is right beside Ballyhornan Beach. Ballyhornan is a tiny village but does have a pub and a small shop. I'm happy to help with information about local hotels and bed and breakfasts for anyone wishing to bring friends and family with them.

Registration:

There will not be a registration fee this year. However accommodation is strictly limited and we will not confirm anyone's registration until proof of travel booking is provided. Registration is via an online form which you can find here ..

<http://www.emailmeform.com/builder/form/1Q6aDSad4OI>

If you do not have access to the internet and wish to attend please contact me.

Travel:

Ferry from UK mainland: Downpatrick is a 45 minute drive from Belfast, 75 minutes from Larne and around 2 hours from Dublin.

Flights:

Belfast has 2 airports George Best City Airport and Belfast International. Both are equally handy for onward travel with both offering bus services to Europa Bus Station in Belfast where there are hourly connecting buses to Downpatrick. There are flights to Belfast from most UK regional airports.

Members flying from outside the UK will probably find flying to Dublin is less expensive. Dublin is around 2 hours from Downpatrick. There are buses from the airport to Newry, where you can get a connecting bus to Belfast.

Provisional Festival Programme:

Wed 23rd:

- Arrival from noon.
- Chairman's briefing.
- Beach party. Hopefully will include a Clowns v "Ladies of a certain age" netball team. Eek has requested to play Goal Attack. There are 6 other positions to fill, plus we will need a cheer leading squad.
- Social Evening

Thurs 24th:

- Professional Development workshops (Clowns only)
- Official opening and photo call in St Patrick's Square
- Opening show. Outdoor stage in town square.
- Auction/ Social Evening

Fri 25th

- School/ nursery shows
- Nursing home visits
- Street shows in square
- Mix and Mingle in town centre
- Gala Show

Sat 26th

- Street entertainment at 4 locations around the town
- Mix and mingle at sponsors' business premises
- Public workshops
- Open Stage with a few guest performances (Clowns only)

Sun 27th

- Picnic
- Street entertainment
- Parade (subject to funding)
- Awards night. (At the time of going to press it is looking very likely we have a sponsor who will provide the venue and a buffet meal)

Mon 28th

- Farewell breakfast
- Talk at our exhibition
- Departures

Noeleen "Clown Silly Tilly" Breen
 clownsillytilly@btinternet.com

Images of Downpatrick



I guess plenty of clowns are struggling to get work at present. I know I am. Whereas two or three years ago I was still getting work four days a week on average, now I'm lucky if I get four days a month. In some ways that's OK. It's quite a relief not to drive all those miles, and it used to be over 35,000 a year. My old car has done 212,000 now and it's still going! But whenever I do clown, it still goes just as well as it ever did.

I reckon we've gone out of fashion for a while, largely because coulrophobia, the fear of clowns, has come into fashion. Coulrophobia's a cool thing to have! As a case in point, I was doing a show for a church primary school just before Christmas, and I was told two girls were frightened of clowns, so they asked if they could come and see me beforehand. Two simpering nine year old girls duly appeared, smiled embarrassedly, and said it would be OK. And they were, they laughed and shouted uproariously. Afterwards the Head apologised, suggesting that they weren't frightened of clowns at all, they were new to the school and just wanted to be the centre of attention. But I fear when schools especially but other event organisers too are considering who to invite, clowns drop to the bottom of the list in case dear little Johnnie or darling Becky might be frightened. I know that I've 'cured' a number of people of their fear of clowns over the years but perhaps that was when it was less fashionable. I also know that some people do have a genuine fear – a couple of times, girls have gone screaming from the audience. But that's only twice in thousands of shows and events.

I was surprised and disappointed to hear from Mattie at the beginning of January that they don't have clown doctors at Great Ormond Street Hospital any more – no greasepaint, no red noses, no big boots allowed. They're all 'giggle doctors' now – presumably that's for the same reasons. It leaves Mattie out of a job as well as out of fashion.

I don't think there's much that we can do about it all, apart from commit ourselves to being funny and to ensuring we're not scary at all. Some clowns are scary – I can't deny it, and I wish I could stop it, or should that be 'stop them'. I do some scary things but that's different! Meanwhile we'll just have to be patient till our turn comes round again – clowns are never beaten, never erased or eliminated. We're too resilient for that. You can't get rid of us. If we just commit ourselves to being the best clowns we can possibly be, all will be well. It's not a question of having the last laugh on the sceptics and the overprotective do-gooders, it's a matter of affirming the importance of laughter, the essence of folly, and making 'em laugh their socks off!

Roly Bain

1. The Secretary reported that he was now the main address for correspondence for The Clowns' Gallery Ltd and the Charity Commission as well as C.I.
2. The Treasure reported that the bank balance was slender but that there were still memberships to come in.
3. A suggestion of having overseas club representatives was discussed it was felt that this maybe a good idea and some names were suggested and they would be contacted to find out their thoughts.
4. The committee were to investigate the use of Skype for some of their committee meetings as it was felt that this would benefit those unable to attend and also help in problems with members having to travel long distance.
5. The editor of the Joey was concerned that the costs of producing 4 issues a year of the Joey would soon eat up all the clubs funds and could not guarantee if A4 or A5. He proposed reducing to 3 issues a year for now and this was agreed
6. The Gallery Curator stated that some the exhibition at Wookey Hole had been re-arranged and that Taffy's costume was now an exhibit there. The eggs had been photographed for a new book and that one of our banners had now been put up there also.
7. Forthcoming events were discussed, these being
 - Grimaldi Service – now being at All Saints due to our own church being used as a school.
 - Grimaldi Festival – Being held the day after our AGM at Joseph Grimaldi Park in London.
 - Northern Ireland Clown Festival in September
 - Another possible event is being looked at via Clown Rusty Russell who has approached the festival organiser

It is with a heavy heart that I write this piece for The Joey. You see, Clowns International has been a big part of my clowning life for many years, I was so proud to be made an Honorary Vice-President of C.I. because the votes came from you, the members.

I have been to many wonderful places around the world that I probably would never have been to if it wasn't for C.I. Working with many wonderful artistes, in many different countries. I have made over the years many dear friends/fellow artistes within C.I. and have also attended the funerals of many of them when I was the Benevolent Officer and I used to organise the clown guard of honour when it was wanted and staying friends with members of families to this day.

Who can forget the Clowns conventions at Bognor, Southport and other one/two day clown festivals that we all attended at some time or other, sometimes over 100 clowns at conventions and over 200 at the World Clowns Convention, Southport in 1993. Heady times, fun times, spreading the word of clowning to everyone. We had a strong membership in C.I. The Joey was entertaining and one used to look forward to receiving their copy. I know we had a few entertaining and successful Clown Fest at Butlins, but we all knew it had to end sometime, and when it did.....

When interviewed on an afternoon chat show, not long after our final Butlins Fest, one of our committee members was asked what next? He replied we shall all sit around the table and sort something out for next year..... That was three years ago!

I received my Joey just before Christmas, only my third of the year, the Newsletter I did not receive. Apparently due to lack of funds we now couldn't afford to publish our magazine every quarter. Which I find very sad and disappointing. I've said this many times before, that you don't know how much you miss anything until it's gone, and if more effort from members contributions, editorial staff and committee members in general is not forthcoming we shall not have a magazine. The content of the last few editorials has been terrible the heart has gone out of the publication. We no longer know what happens at C.I. Committee meetings (you still have them I assume?) or what decisions are made, what are the chances of a future Clowns Festival anywhere who is doing what? Results are never published.

An organisation that had well over 200 members a few years ago has I imagine less than a quarter of that now. A lot of people over the years have worked really hard within C.I. for C.I. and no doubt there still are some doing that very same thing, but it's not coming over to the members.

This year, in my opinion, will be crucial for C.I. We need to reach out to members in all four corners of our country. We need a good PR person, a strong committee headed by a forward thinking chairperson to steer Clowns International out of this black hole it seems to be in at the moment.

Bernard Moore (Mr Woo) Hon. Vice-President

Like any organisation things don't always run smoothly and Clowns International is no exception.

In response to Mr Woo's article, the committee hold their hand up and admit that they haven't always got things right. Since people like Bluey and Chris Stone have left, with all the experience they had between them, the remaining and newer committee members have been settling into their roles and have found it difficult at times to keep the members informed of how things are progressing within the club.

They have tried to keep the majority of members informed by establishing a member's only Facebook group and they hope that that is working but admit that those not on Facebook have been overlooked. We can only apologise and hope that we can find ways to resolve it so that it doesn't happen again and this will be discussed at the next committee meeting. One of the things we can hope help is the re-introduction of a page in The Joey which we will call 'Committee Briefings', the first is in this issue, and this will be a basic bullet point brief of what the Committee have discussed, approved and rejected at their last meeting.

Regarding a Press and Public Relations Officer (PRO), the secretary has been responsible for performing these duties when needed for events that C.I. have been involved in and again, as Mr Woo points out, these have been few and far between. That is not to say that the committee haven't been trying to find and organise events, they have. However due to circumstances most have fallen down and never amounted to a fruitful conclusion. We as an organisation must accept that there isn't the money about for businesses and local authorities to spend on a clown event that we have been used to and that any event in the future may be smaller and more modest to what we have come to expect. We do have a more elaborate Grimaldi Day planned in London and a Festival in Northern Ireland to look forward to this year as well as continuing to support our colleagues in Denmark with Svendburg and Holbaek festivals by promoting and encouraging members to attend these events.

If any members can help in coming up with venues (free) where we could hold workshops and events, which has been asked before via the Joey, Emailing's and Facebook, then please let the Secretary know. We could arrange more localised smaller events through the year but we need the membership to help. With fewer members than in the past, partly due to losing the 'Bognor' event and the associated reduced fees from our hosts to put this on, it goes without saying that income becomes an issue and our biggest expense is The Joey. With the average cost of printing and postage for each edition being around £500-£600 and with these costs rising each year, we have tried to keep costs down by reducing the number printed but we still need to do more. Ideally we need someone who has time to approach possible businesses who could advertise but again having a small

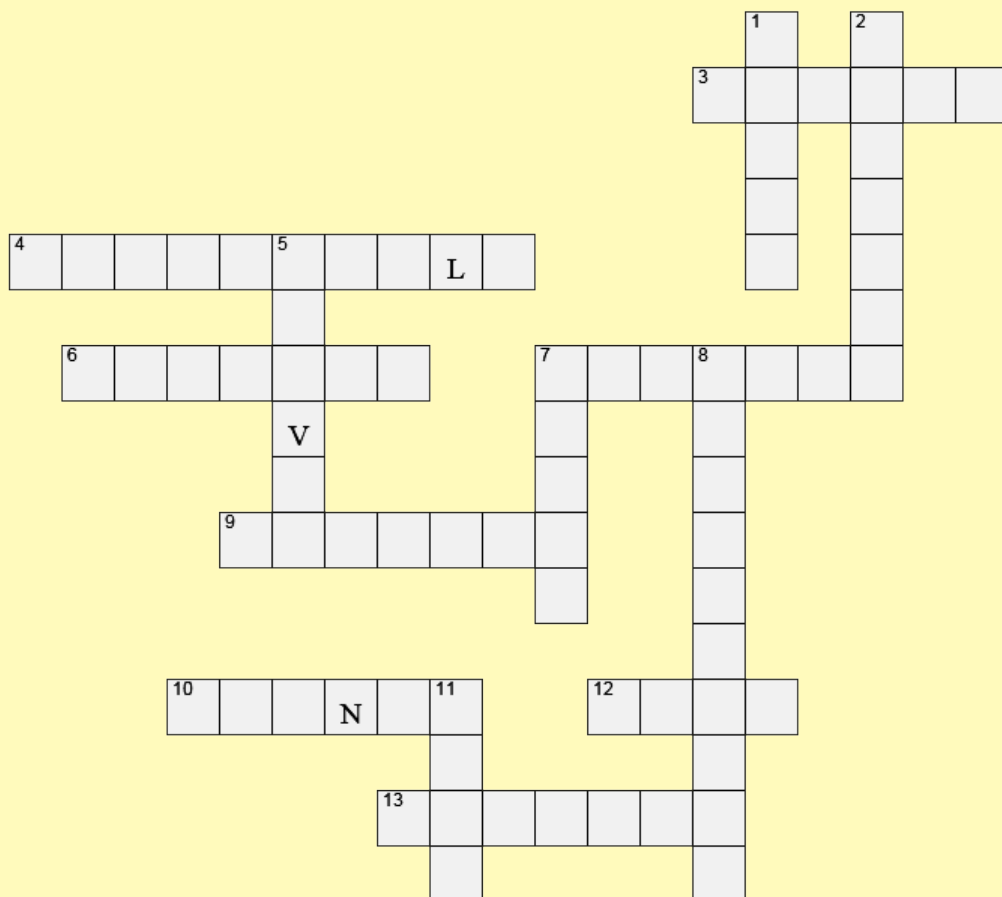
circulation doesn't help our cause so we do what we can at the time to lessen the impact on club funds. If anyone would like to volunteer to try and find advertisers now is the time to step forward and help.

We are sorry that Mr Woo thinks The Joey of late has been 'terrible' but Stevie D can only work with what he receives as editor and on the whole he has had good feedback on The Joey. He has in every issue asked for articles to include and would like to see articles on prop making, costumes, gags, skits etc. but if no one sends anything in then it's difficult to make a good issue out of nothing each time.

Mr Woo is right; we don't know how much we'll miss something until it's gone. So as he says let's make this the year that we see us turn that corner by helping the committee, helping the editor and helping your club.

The Committee

Crossword



Across:

3. A musical
4. couldn't you just swat him
6. Andy the _____ Clown
7. Mr Barnes uses them
9. He has the greatest of ease on this
10. A place for a circus or two
12. a nose by any other name

13. He's no topper or bowler

Down:

1. He inspired many
2. Not as many used now a days
5. Our President is known for it
7. He's not Red or Yellow
8. this takes the biscuit
11. In god he trusts

CGUK 2015 Upon reflection.

I've slept, been a while since I've rested, processed and relaxed. Thinking back seven days ago, I awoke with nothing more than a list with a few faithful clown promises, a few emails, an empty hotel, and empty theatre and my continuing desire to make people happy. My list was shrinking, dropping from eighty one keen students, to eleven. The most common question I'd been asked over the previous forty seven hours was, "How many have you got arriving for the first Clown Gathering UK?" Each time I would look at the list, count the eleven, and add the few extra names who I knew would be helping throughout the week. "Numbers in total, between twenty five and thirty." My fingers with anxiety, hope and yes, definitely a prayer.

(Said in a comical gruff Newcastle Accent): 9.01 - Day one in big clown household. I've called the theatre, they're ready, tickets sold for the shows, nil. Clowns arrived, one! I have someone; the first, Ian Thom has travelled, arrived and joined me! We have a clown gathering, it might only be us two, but I know I'm not alone. Ian's kind face and voice relaxes me. One of his first questions, "How many clowns have you got?" keep the faith, check my emails and... Another clown apologising, they cannot make the week of lectures, workshops and shows. The hotel's staff arrive with tea and coffee. As the morning progresses, more faces appear; Ian Williams, Bobbo Roberts, Hazel and Neil Wilkin, Simon Thompson and Salvo. Sticking to the schedule, everyone has lunch. We do have a clown gathering. The local newspaper arrives to do the story on the gathering and announces that they are very keen to follow the convention every day, and it's not just going in Lowestoft Friday paper, it's going regional in to the Eastern Daily Press, starting tomorrow. We start our first lecture, it's Ian Thom, 50 items of business, jokes and props that can be pulled from your pockets. It never occurred to me how this man may feel, giving the first lecture to lecture room full of... Seven clowns. 3pm and it's makeup workshop, this is what the reporter came for, to get a story and pictures of 'Clowns in our town'; next Arthur Pedlar arrives, a man who I've admired for many, many years and has become a jolly good friend. Including me, our group has grown to nine. Ian Williams has the third lecture with jokes, puns and more bits of business. My new group of friends are laughing, joking, socialising and I'm fairly certain, enjoying each other's company. We end the day with an informal few hours in the hotel lounge, chatting swapping stories and me, looking forward to the next few days.

8.04 - Day two in the big clown household. (The accent has gone). I've got the papers, front coverage for CGUK2015 in the Eastern Daily Press. No, it's page one, two and three! The media like the story, it's a positive story about clowns, clowning and the event. After breakfast, we all travel to the theatre for the first time and begin the lectures. I receive a call from local BBC Suffolk Radio and could they come along and do an interview and a story for their 5pm show. Then Anglia TV call, they want the story for the evening news, BBC a radio Suffolk, Mustard TV, BBC News Media, BBC Look East... I'm getting call upon call from everyone wanting to meet everyone, speak to everyone, and tell the public about the clown gathering.

The workshops continue, I'm chatting with the press, the theatre is getting the news coverage it needs too and everyone is happy. Tuesday concludes with the table sale, which I think it appropriately deserves to be called, 'Prop and Swap'. Everyone is smiling and laughing, enjoying and learning. I'm happy.

The week continues with more and more media requests, the stories not only go with ITV regional, it goes ITV regional national. Every home in the UK will see CGUK2015. I check the show tickets and they're selling. Wednesday evening show is almost half booked, we've made a small profit with the box office. Jon Davison arrives, Jonathan T. Jester arrives, Adam Reid, Kenny Cantor, Miki Travis, Debbie Smith and Cosmo, more clowns. The show is amazing and something that's never been seen before. The eclectic mix of the different styles of clown. My Panto style, Vercoe the Clowns award performances, Bobbo's circus, the Fool Hardy Clowns, ODDBODs mimes, Gingernuts running gags and the mystery of 'Clown Noir'. More lectures and workshops follow Thursday, with extra media coverage for regional, national and independent journalists, all searching for different stories from everyone attending. The evening performance isn't a sell out, but it does fill over 80% of the seating. Everyone is laughing, enjoying and thanking me for bringing everyone together.

6.58 - Day five in the big clown household. (In my tired, slurred, Norfolk accent). I'm trying to hold back a tidal overflow of tears. All these few friends arriving for breakfast. New friendships, old ones rekindled, all having enjoyed a week clowning with clowns. We have a small meeting. They all want to do it again. It's agreed. Next year, after Christmas, another clown gathering. CGUK2016.

I would like to say that I cannot express my thanks enough to all those who kept the faith for CGUK. It really was an unknown quantity. We didn't know what was going to happen, we didn't know who was going to arrive, we didn't know if we would or could learn from each other. We've raised the profile of clowning with the public and we've share ideas and style with other clowns. A first for me, a first for my town, a first for others, and a first for Clown Gathering UK.

See you at CGUK2016

Andy the Clown

One final note, I've been asked if the event made a loss. Well it didn't make a profit, and any losses really were negligible, due to me trying to keep the event self funding. Thank you everyone for donating your time. Time is the most precious of commodities and to give this to yourselves and others, makes the whole concept of CGUK work. Clowning for Clowns.

Images from Clown Gathering UK 2015



What can I possibly say about Clown Gathering 2015 - you kind of have to have been there to believe it but i'll try my best.

Around 2 years ago a crazy little man called Andrew Davis decided there MUST be a clown festival for the clowns of the UK or at the very least a gathering *this is a very funny statement dear reader but you won't understand why until you read this till the end.

That festival did not happen in 2014 and a few people were disappointed but not really surprised. After all Andrew had lofty dreams and big expectations but no experience of pulling anything like this off so everyone went back to work, and commenting on pictures of Elsa lookalikes on Facebook groups and got on with their lives. However this stubborn little fella would not give up and decided now that CGUK2015 MUST happen.

On he went trying the same thing again with dogged determination, promises that this time it would go ahead, we just had to believe and possibly something about magic pixie dust?? This time he raised the stakes and started to source lecturers even promising a fee, boy was he determined. Sometimes the outsider can romp home so I placed my bet and went back to commenting on pictures of Elsa lookalikes on Facebook groups and got on with my life.

I wrote notes on a lecture or an informal chat on my style of clowning and got working with Bobby on getting some of his ideas across on Slapstick along with a few of my thoughts on it too for good measure. It was a relatively simple matter, after all when he's not touring it's the stuff of our kitchen chats over coffee. The talks were written and put away just in case.

The promised date of the gathering approaches and I for one doubt it will go ahead when I get a Facebook message asking me for travel arrangements and I think he's pulled it off? Unexpected but good news so we start to plan our trip, look at our notes worry a little about what we have promised, remember it's a 400 mile trip with Bobby and me in the car one of us will surely pun the other out? So we head off into the unknown. Yada yada yada road trip somehow tired and bleary eyed we get there to see Andrew standing outside the hotel, waving frantically with a huge smile and we thought great it wasn't a cruel prank.

We rush inside leaving most of our things in the car and meet the others all 2 of them my good friend Ian Thom and my new friend Simon, both other promised lecturers and whilst all lecturers would also be staying so far it wasn't looking hopeful after all Bobby and I had arrived late for registration due to an issue with me waking up at the very late hour of 2:30AM rather than between 12 and 1AM as planned. Suddenly more people began to arrive and then just as suddenly stopped arriving.

We had reached the grand total of 8 people, I had a quick check of my messages on Facebook I have one from Andrew one saying even if we only get 10 it'll go ahead. I have quick look at Andrew and sure enough he could very well be mad. However there's no time to dwell as the press have just arrived and need volunteers to get into slap and motley for some coverage and we all start to relax and start to goof off around our peers. Either Andrew is a genius and knew exactly what would happen or a madman so

blinkered that'd he'd go ahead anyway regardless but everyone somehow got caught in Andrew's enthusiasm: press, participants, speakers - everyone he meets gets swept along in his belief. Ian Thom has already spoken at speed on pocket fun items to bring a little mirth out in your interactions to recover some time lost to our somewhat elastic schedule, no egos are bruised or noses out of joint as over the next few days we put the needs of good press for clowns ahead of anything as silly as a concrete schedule. Everyone has a little to give to all pull together and make this work. Within 5 minutes everyone has forgotten the numbers here and is instead is thinking that was great fun and I realise my talk on walkabout is soon and I'm still in makeup, my props for the talk are in the car and rush to get started. Now dear reader I'm going to skip over my own talks as that falls to others to review, everyone is very lovely about it but then everyone IS lovely, did they all catch that from Andrew too? In all 23 clowns came and went over the course of the 4 nights and 4 and half days. The press came too and stayed and multiplied.

I promised 500 words in this review and just passed 800 and I haven't reviewed a single workshop/lecture/show or talk yet but how can I? The learning and growth was not restricted to the studio, conference room or stage, over dinner you could ask further questions or just watch as clowns of different disciplines played out of character and in. So here instead is a random rambling on what I think I got from it and you can decide it's success for yourself:

I've found the experimental clowns and they're brilliant buffoon, le coq, traditional 50's style circus/concert party, I even learned some things from my

own talk as you often do, oh and warm up techniques and games for improv, keeping the real in your performance, safe physical comedy on a concrete floor, more walkabout madness I can adopt and adapt. We watched rare footage of past masters, talked to the early hours until Simon brought out my inner Buffon, Jon told us his motivation was to come try teaching to people who were already clown just to get feedback on his own lessons. Something has been awoken in me and there's a definite danger I may go full Buffon before the next one.

So how can I possibly round this up? Well the performance development should be pretty self evident from what I've written this far and the tools I've taken away from this will serve me well for years to come. Who could have predicted the other outcomes though:

I rekindled friendships and made new firm friends, that's true of a lot of conventions this however this was not a convention it was a gathering. I didn't know what a gathering was before and I suspect neither did Andrew. A gathering it turns out is a place where you and a wide range of diverse talents are thrown together, not only in lectures, but at dinner, backstage, in the bar and in front of TV cameras. It's hard to explain but it is somehow greater than the sum of it's parts: it's all at once a convention, a collective, therapy, a commune, a clinic and so much more. Stopping only for sleep and pausing to eat. If your dictionary has any other definition it is clearly wrong and must be updated!

Well done Andrew and everyone involved, because it truly was a shared spirit that made this what it was, I can't believe it's a year till the next one.

Clowns International Notice of Annual A.G.M.

The Secretary of Clowns International hereby gives notice of the intention to hold it's Annual General Meeting on

Saturday 30th May 2015 at 3.00pm

(doors open from 2.00pm)

At

**Hugh Cubitt Centre
48, COLLIER STREET.
LONDON N1 9QZ.**

AGM POSTAL VOTES

Postal votes should be applied for no later than

16th May 2015

(14 days prior to the AGM) and returned to the Secretary

no later than

23rd May 2015

(7 days prior to the AGM).

Secretary: Tony 'Bluebottle' Eldridge,

26 Sherwood Road,

Barkingside,

Iford, IG6 1BL

secretary@clowns-international.com

Proposed by Susan 'Susi Oddball' Maxwell-Stewart

Seconded by Stephen 'Stevie D' Davies

Chairman – Ian 'Gingernutt' Thom

Vice - Chairman – Mathew 'Mattie' Faint

Secretary - Antony 'Bluebottle' Eldridge

Treasurer – Martyn 'EEK' Cooper

Membership Officer – Vacant

There has been one Nomination received for the post of
Membership Secretary of Stephen 'Stevie D' Davies

Proposed by David 'Conk the Clown' Vaughan

Seconded by Maureen Vaughan

NOMINATIONS FORM FOR COMMITTEE OFFICERS 2015/16

I wish to Nominate _____ for the position of;
(please tick post(s) applying for)

- a) Chairman []
- b) Vice Chairman []
- c) Treasurer []
- d) Secretary []
- e) Membership Officer []

The person nominated has agreed to stand for this position.

Signed _____ Membership Number _____

Proposed by _____ Membership Number _____

Seconded by _____ Membership Number _____

Please return this form to the Secretary by 1st May 2015

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF CLOWNS INTERNATIONAL HELD ON WEDNESDAY 16TH APRIL 2014 AT ZIPPO'S CIRCUS, BLACKHEATH, SOUTH LONDON.

Present: 24 Members

MEETING OPENED AT: 12.26pm

1 Apologies for absence were received from:

John Frosty Cooper; Bluey Bluey Brattle; Matthew Mattie Faint; Ivor Ivo Stone; Carl Carlo Stone; Stephen Ludo Ashcroft; The Rapide Brothers Radforth; Ron Toto Johnson; Martin SillyMcB Bingham; Chris Bungle North; Pauline Ladybird Ellis; Ron Granddaddy Trumble Curtis; Martyn Eek Cooper; Caroline Bublz Ainslie; Sally Crazy Bananas Beadle.

2 Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Thursday 28th February 2013 in the Sun & Moon Public House, Butlins Leisure Centre, Bognor Regis.

The minutes were accepted.

Proposed by: Carol Pip the Magic Clown Bosworth
Seconded by: Kari Flo Dunton.

3 Matters arising

There were none.

4 Chairman's Report

No report received

Vice Chairman's Report

Ian Gingernutt Thom said that a lot has happened during the last year. The club has been busy in various ways keeping the flag flying. He announced that today C.I. would be presenting an award to The Rastellie Clowns at 2.15pm in the circus ring. This was an award called "The Lifetime Achievement Award" and it was the first time it had been presented.

Secretary's Report

The full report given by the Secretary was distributed to members

present. He said that general C.I. secretarial activity had not been great during the past year but enquiries about random matters arrive from the general public from time to time. A lot of time was expended in late 2013 owing to the peculiar behaviour of a young man in Northampton who had apparently been alarming the public whilst dressed in some sort of clown outfit. This had sparked off a lot of interest by the Press especially around Christmas time when there was nothing else to report on. The Secretary had been contacted by umpteen newspapers at home and abroad including radio and television stations. Eventually the hubbub was quelled and the cause of the bother even apologised for his behaviour via a local newspaper in Northampton.

Later in 2014 further annoyance emanated from the Press when it was claimed that Clowning was on the way out and membership of C.I. had dropped from 1000 to 100. A lot of time was spent trying to put this matter right especially as C.I. had never had a membership of 1000.

All this was followed by problems in Dalston that threatened to close down our Archive/mini display at The Clowns Church due to a building development opposite the church. We pay rent of £300 per annum for the space occupied. This problem is still being pursued hopefully for a satisfactory solution to emerge.

Treasurers Report and presentation of Accounts

The Treasurer, Martyn Eek Cooper was unable to be present, and members were invited to offer comments on the balance sheet provided. There was discussion regarding the figures quoted in the accounts as it appeared that £1000 had not been shown to have been accounted for. The Accounts were not accepted in their present form and it was agreed that they be rechecked by the Treasurer and then they be re-presented via email to all members.

Membership Secretary's Report

Noeleen SillyTilly Breen reported that we have 62 full clowns plus Friends, Juniors and Honoraries. Some people have not indicated that they were not going to renew so they may do so. There have been some problems regarding Standing Orders which have been affecting the rate of renewals. She has been catching up with renewals. David Conk Vaughan as the former Membership Secretary reminded the Treasurer that there are still problems regarding payment arrangements. There was discussion about approaching younger clowns and clown groups in order to recruit more members. Noeleen SillyTilly Breen said that she has also been looking into suggested new venues for a clown festival. However, all the venues suggested required C.I. to pay the unaffordable costs and so these venues were

not suitable.

It was pointed out that with regard to Paypal there are problems with the account address on the club website

5 **Editor/Webmaster**

Steve Stevie D Davies said that he had nothing much to say. There is still a need for material to be submitted for publication. Ian 'Gingernutt' Thom said that it is vital that there are articles submitted. Susan 'Susi Oddball' Maxwell Stewart said that she wished to thank Steve Stevie D Davies for all he has been doing regarding the magazine and maintaining the website. Chris Anco Fincham proposed that if we don't get enough copy to make a good issue we should cancel it at the committee's discretion.

All in favour. Seconded by David Conk Vaughan.

Kari Flo Dunton suggested that a news sheet be sent in place of a magazine if a magazine couldn't be compiled. This was considered by the members present to be worth pursuing.

David Pandromini Drummond pointed out that a lot of erroneous information about the club can be found on the Internet. Steve Stevie D Davies replied that it is not possible to remove incorrect information that is scattered about the Internet.

6 **Clowns Benevolent Fund**

Roly Roly Bain said not very much has happened during the past year so not a lot has been going on. He said that nowadays when he notifies the Membership that there has been illness, few members have sent get well cards to the un-well members. He added that once upon a time the response from the membership was much greater. Susan Susi Oddball Maxwell-Stewart said that she was very grateful to the Benevolent Fund when she was sent a card and flowers last year when she was ill.

As Members are usually notified via email and the Dunny Hotline, Ian Gingernutt Thom suggested that if any members present had new email addresses, they should give them to Roly Roly Bain today so that he can update his records.

7 **Clowns Gallery Ltd**

There was discussion regarding the Trustees of the Clowns Gallery. David Pandromini Drummond said that he was not aware of there being any meetings of the Trustees. He also mentioned that he felt that the signage at Wookey Hole be looked into as it is not clear enough to

draw attention to the Clowns Gallery exhibition. Susan Susi Oddball Maxwell-Stewart suggested that a letter sent to the church thanking them for housing The Clowns Gallery archives at Holy Trinity church in Dalston. Ian Gingernutt Thom replied that the accommodation of the Archives did not come without cost to the Clowns Gallery Ltd as an annual sum of £300 was paid to the church for the facility provided. At the moment we were being told by the vicar, the Rev. Rose Hudson-Wilkin that access to our Archives would be curtailed for 2 years owing to the church being used as a school classroom whilst a new school was being built opposite the church. She had also said that the Grimaldi Day service would have to be relocated and had suggested St. Johns church in central Hackney for this purpose as it is a much larger building.

Chris Anco Fincham said that she would be prepared to become a Director/Trustee of The Clowns Gallery Ltd. She was thanked for her offer and Gordon Rainbow Sharpe as Secretary of The Clowns Gallery Ltd said he would progress this.

8 Election of Officers for 2014/15

There had not been any Members putting themselves forward for election to the committee posts occupied by the outgoing Committee. The present incumbents were willing to stand for re election. The Members present agreed to re elect the present incumbents en bloc.

Chairman Gordon Rainbow Sharpe

Vice Chairman Ian Gingernutt Thom

Secretary Tony Bluebottle Eldridge

Treasurer Martyn Eek Cooper

Membership Secretary Noeleen SillyTilly Breen

The existing committee was re elected en bloc.

Proposed by: Kari 'Flo' Dunton

Seconded by: Salvo Stone

All in favour. No abstentions or objections.

9 Any Other Business

Cocofest at Woodnewton in September

An invitation had been received from a gentleman by the name of

Dillon who had been involved in a similar clowning event 20 years ago to remember Coco the world famous clown. That event had been held in aid of a local community hall that was to have been named in Coco's name but in actual fact this never happened. Consequently those members of C.I. who were present at the event 20 years ago were not supportive of this year's repeat. There had been no fees offered to any members of C.I. who might have been interested in attending and overnight accommodation was apparently non-existent at Woodnewton. Official support by C.I. was not recommended.

Non members using the C.I. logo on their websites

David Conk Vaughan said that a number of non C.I. members were still using the C.I. logo on their websites. He felt that these people should be asked to remove the C.I. logo.

Salvo said that if he is informed of the names of those who are not members of C.I. he will take action against people advertising on his website. He may be ending his website soon and he intended not remaining a member of C.I. He said he objected to references made on Facebook pages and comments about festival events. In response, Gordon Rainbow Sharpe said members must stand together and make the club work.

Salvo went on to comment about an article in The Daily Telegraph newspaper Ian Gingernutt Thom responded by saying that he thought that the article was not a true record of what the paper was told.

Andrew the Signing Clown Davis said that he is an Executive Director of The World Clown Association and that he would be pleased to help C.I. if it was needed. He was thanked for his offer.

Northern Ireland event 2015

Noleen Silly Tilly Breen said that there is a possibility of their being a clown festival in Downpatrick, N.Ireland in September 2015. She was having discussions with the interested parties.

There was a vote of thanks to Martin Zippo Burton for kindly hosting this AGM at his Circus and allowing members present to see the afternoon show

Meeting closed at 1.47pm

Please note that at the time of printing the accounts still have to audited.

CLOWNS INTERNATIONAL ACCOUNTS 2014									
Income	2014	2013	2012	Expenditure	2014	2013	2012	2013	2012
Memberships Fees	£2,561.40	£2,211.00	£4,960.00	Performance Fees	£0.00	£0.00	£900.00	£0.00	£900.00
Sales	£28.50	£367.50	£0.00	Premises Fees	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Donations	£0.00	£0.00	£101.00	Travel	£182.99	£57.00	£0.00	£57.00	£0.00
Grants	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	IT	£36.38	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Interest	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	Administration	£854.34	£833.44	£875.00	£833.44	£875.00
Miscellaneous	£0.00	£2,220.02	£3,177.00	Advertising & Promotion	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
				Bad Debts	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
				Interest & Finance Charges	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
				Miscellaneous	£89.30	£615.29	£5,027.00	£615.29	£5,027.00
				JOEY	£1,242.25	£2,672.91	£3,895.00	£2,672.91	£3,895.00
Total	A	£4,798.52	£8,238.00		£2,405.26	£4,178.64	£10,697.00	£4,178.64	£10,697.00
Bank Account									
Opening Balance 1st January	£1,187.65	£2,354.77	£4,813.45	This represents a true account of the finances for Clowns International 2014					
Closing Balance 31st December	£1,122.09	£1,187.65	£2,354.77						
Bank Balance for Year (+/-)	£65.56	-£1,167.12	-£2,458.68						
PayPal Account									
Balance at 31/12/2014	C								
Profit/Loss for 2014	(A - B) + C			Treasurer				Internal Check and Audit	
				Martyn Cooper				Stephen Davies	



CLOWNS INTERNATIONAL
STANDING ORDER FORM



1 Your Details

Your Full Name or Business Name

Your Contact Telephone Number

Bank Sort Code

Account Number being debited

Bank & Branch

2 Your Standing Order Details

Does this instruction replace another standing order instruction

Yes No

Reference number (date of birth & Membership Number)

Recipients Name

Recipients Bank & Branch

Sort Code

Account No

(IBIN) - GB29LOYD30998700368035

(BIC) - LOYDGB21376

First Payment Amount (if different from usual amount)

£

Date of First Payment

Usual Payment Amount

£

Usual Payment Amount in Words

UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

How often do you want the payments made

Quarterly Yearly

3 Your Authorisation

I authorise you to debit my / our account in accordance with Section 2 above.

Your signature (s)

This request is addressed to the bank which holds my / our account

Date

Please complete and send one copy to your bank and one copy to the C.I. Membership Officer



The World Famous Clowns International Egg Collection



Since the mid 1940's when founder member, Stan Bult, started recording the faces of members on eggs, Clowns International have continued to encourage members to have their make-up recorded on china pot eggs to be added to the unique collection. The collection is housed in the clowns museum/exhibition at Wookey Hole in Somerset.



Have you had your egg added to the collection yet? Once you have ordered an egg for the museum you may order an additional egg for yourself, which will be posted directly to you. Art can never be rushed but we endeavour to ensure that your eggs are finished within one month of receiving your order

Please cut out, or photocopy the order form below and forward to: The Membership Secretary, Clowns International, 4a Downpatrick Road, Strangford, Co. Down, Northern Ireland. BT30 7LZ

Please send good quality photographs (10" x 8" preferred) plus samples of costume material and sufficient wig hair to cover the egg, otherwise the artist can not guarantee to reproduce an exact copy

Clown Name: _____ Membership No: _____

Address: _____

Egg for Clowns International Collection Qty: ___ @ £10.00 = £10.00 (or Voucher)

Additional Egg(s) for clown: Qty ___ @ £15.00 = £ _____

Plus Postage and Packing UK @ £4.50 Qty ___ @ £ _____

(Overseas @ £7.00)

Total = £ _____

All cheques, money orders, bank drafts, euro cheques must be in sterling and made payable to; Clowns.

I understand that to obtain personal egg(s) I must have purchased an egg for the Clowns International Collection. My signature indicates that I understand and agree to all the above conditions.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Answers:- Page 14

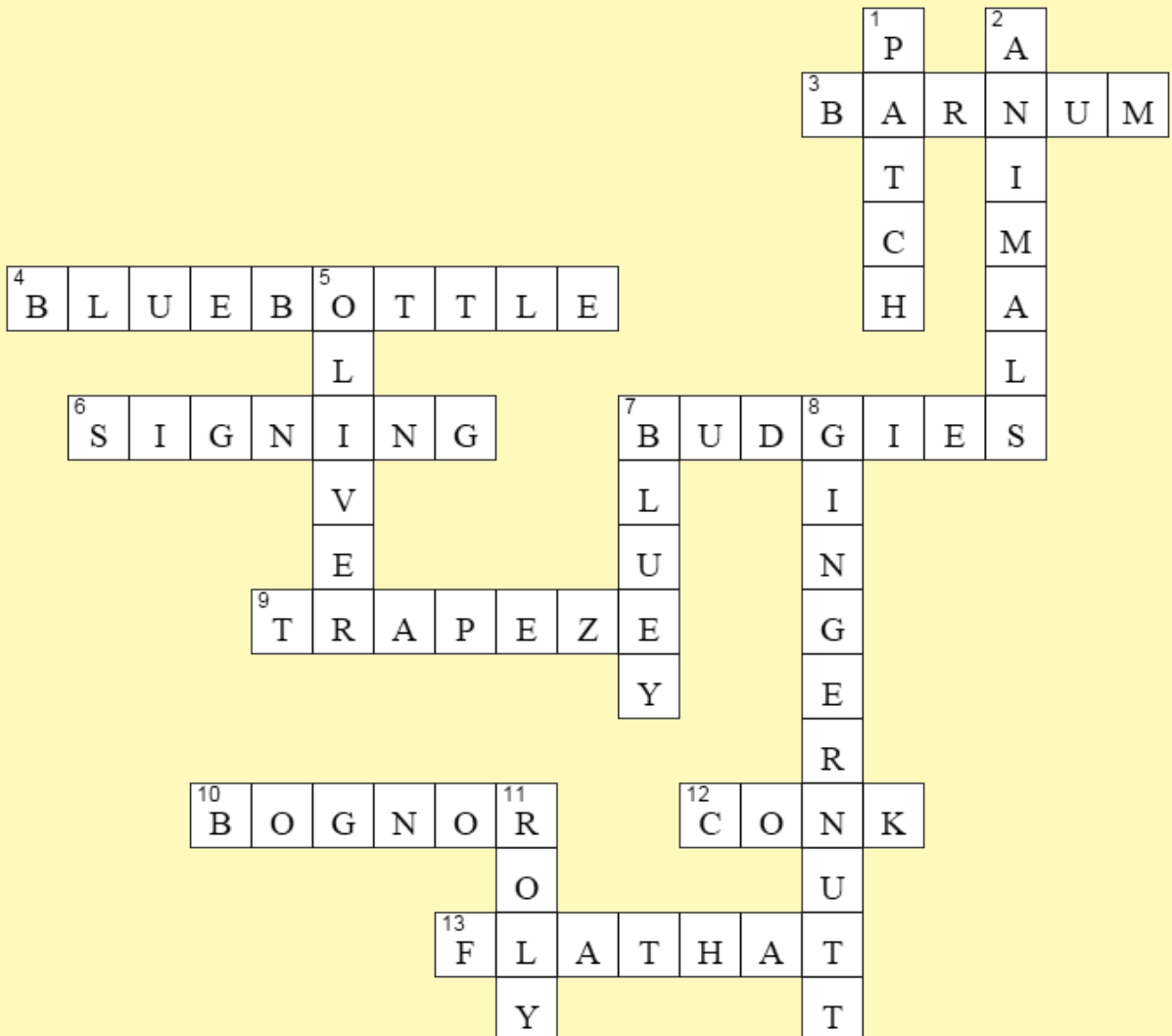
Bimbo has stars on his top hat.

Bimbo's beard is the wrong shape.

Bimbo has circles on his cheeks.

Bimbo's eyes are the wrong shape

Bimbo has a heart shape on his nose.



<p>Chairperson Gordon 'Rainbow' Sharpe Tel: 07977412328 Email: chairman@clowns-international.com</p> <p>Special Responsibilities Festival and Social Events</p> <p>Sub Committee Matthew 'Zaz' Indge Susan 'Susi Oddball' Maxwell-Stewart Noeleen 'Silly Tilly' Breen</p>	<p>Vice Chairperson Ian 'Gingernutt' Thom Tel: 02083104376 Email: vicechairman@clowns-international.com</p> <p>Special Responsibilities Liaison Officer</p> <p>The Clowns' Benevolent Fund Ltd – Chris 'L.O.' Stone (Company Secretary)</p>
<p>Secretary Antony 'Bluebottle' Eldridge Tel: 0845 269 2917 Email: secretary@clowns-international.com</p> <p>Special Responsibilities Public Relations Officer Sub Committee</p> <p>Mathew 'Mattie' Faint Tel: 02076080312</p>	<p>Membership Secretary Noeleen 'Silly Tilly' Breen Tel: 0845 269 3648 Email: membershipofficer@clowns-international.com</p> <p>Special Responsibilities Website Administrator Sub Committee Stephen 'Stevie D' Davies Tel: 0151 678 2994</p>
<p>Treasurer Martyn 'EEK' Cooper Tel: 07808 822455 Email: treasurer@clowns-international.com</p> <p>Special Responsibilities Commercial</p>	<p>Co-opted with Special Responsibilities Joey Co-ordinator/Editor/Webmaster Stephen 'Stevie D' Davies Tel: 0151 678 2994 Email: joeycoordinator@clowns-international.com editor@clowns-international.com webmaster@clowns-international.com</p> <p>Sub Committee</p>
<p>Benevolent Officer Roly 'Roly' Bain Tel: 01454616593 Email: roly@rolybain.co.uk</p>	<p>Clowns Museum and Archive Manager Mathew 'Mattie' Faint Tel: 02076080312</p>

JOEY ARTICLE DEADLINES

Spring Issue (posted March)	21st January
Summer Issue (posted July)	21st May
Winter Issue (posted Dec)	21st Sept



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