

The Joey

ISSN 1359 - 4893

Summer
Issue 90

£7.50



Page 31

Social Event

A social with a chance to join a parade and a Slapstick workshop. 18th and 19th September. Place in your diary now!

Page 37

VBS / ISA / CRB

Mike Day from Equity gives us a brief insight to the various checks we may need as clowns.

Page 38 - 43

Clown Eckie
The Gift of
Happiness
Foundation

Clown Eckie gives us an insight to his foundation.



2	Contents and Picture Index
3	Editor's Thoughts
4	Chairman's Chatter
5	Quips for Kids
6	Using New Materials by Hal 'Kirby Drill' Brooks
7	Using New Materials...cont
8	Using New Materials...cont
9	Using New Materials...cont
10	New Years Day Parade 2010
11	Your Photos 1
12	Using New Materials...cont
13	Glori-B Says Thanks
13	Using New Materials...cont
14	Humour from the Net
16	Greetings from Across the Pond
17	Greetings from Across the Pond...cont
18	Boots says Hello
18	Become a Film Star
19	A Thank You from Dizzy Dez
19	'Frankie's Festiclown Show'
20	Azores Clown Festival - Application Form
21	Your Photos 2
23	Serious Small Thoughts
24	What Do We Expect?
24	Last Chance - Azores!
25	Who is Scared of Clowns
26	I Can't Believe We Made It!

Picture Index

3	Stevie D
4	Rainbow
6	Hal 'Kirby Drill' Brooks
6	'Kirby Drill and 'Goldie'
7	Transport for children, Bognor Rock
8	Kirby Drill with Tufty
9	Welsh Dragon
11	Dr Quackers, Razz the Clown, Aunty Pearl and Guitar George
11	Eek & Jam
11	Tobo, Jolly Jingles & Majio
11	Marto & Jems
11	Conk
11	Mitiz
12	Name sculpture for Eygptian snooker player
16	Toto
16	Toto ready for bed
17	Toto with new CI Banner
21	Salvo
21	Gadget
21	Bel of Bel & Denni
26	Colouring Competition Winner
27	Sewing for the Soul - by Dr Quackers
28	Sewing for the Soul...cont
29	Your Photos 3
30	Sewing for the Soul...cont
31	Social Event in Raunds
32	An Expression of my Feelings
33	An Expression of my Feelings...cont
34	An Expression of my Feelings...cont
35	An Open Letter to Rico
36	Bonzo's Bit
37	VBS / ISA / CRB
38	The Gift of Happiness Foundation
39	The Gift of Happiness Foundation...cont
40	The Gift of Happiness Foundation...cont
41	The Gift of Happiness Foundation...cont
42	The Gift of Happiness Foundation...cont
43	Your Photos 4
44	From the Notebook of The Custard Clowns
45	The Custard Clowns...cont / Bashers Story
46	Winding Down in Leipzig
47	And Now For Something Completely Different
47	Some of our rejoined and new Clowns / Juniors / Friends
48	C.I. Membership Standing Order Form
49	C.I. Membership Application Form
50	Calender of Events
51	Committee and Contact Details
21	Furry Foot
21	Prima and Gulio from Ukraine
21	Conk & Marto
21	EEK
21	Rainbow, Flo & Boris
21	Tom Fun
21	Toto & Tinker
21	Conk & Rico NYDP
23	BB Bubbles
23	Rainbow & Louise Grainger (Equity)
23	Sonny & BB Bubbles
43	BB Bubbles
43	Toto crack the whip
43	Pip The Magic Clown
43	Zaz
43	Group Photo
44	The Custard Clowns
46	Hilary Chaplian & The Queen (or is she?)
46	Aaron Sparks, Petra Lange, Amber Reed, Angelo Silver, Martha Harrison, Luke Wilson, Craig Reid, Hilary Chaplain
52	Bognor 2010 Group Photo

Cover - Bluebottle and Jazzy
by Stevie D

Design - Stevie D

Printers - Sarsen Press

Welcome to the 90th issue of our great magazine 'The Joey'. But why is it so great? The answer is simple, it's for the clowns by the clowns. It's you that makes this great magazine and in fact makes the club and without you, both would not exist.

I'm sure that many of you have stories to tell of your clowning experiences be it a job you have done that was amusing or an event that you either participated or attended that would be interesting to one and all readers of this magazine. It doesn't have to be an epic, 2 or 3 paragraphs could do. So get pen to paper or fingers to keyboards which ever is comfy.

Send me your articles and photos. Please note that if you are sending photos they should be high quality images of around 300ppi and please name them for indexing etc. If you require anymore information please contact me.

Some of you will already be aware that we now have a 'Group' Clowns International page on Facebook (administered by Bublz with help from Gingernutt and Pippa). We also have a yahoo group that works a bit like the old email system we had. If you post or reply to a message all those people who are members of the yahoo group get's the message. You don't have to have a yahoo email address to belong to the group so why not join.

Don't forget that on our website we have a forum that you can use to discuss things with other C.I. members. All these are only as good as you make them if you don't use them they become useless so please make the best of them.

**Your magazine needs your
input.**

**We need articles/reports,
tricks,
prop making
and prop use,
Hi res images.
send to:**

editor@clowns-international.com

Next Deadline is 1st July



I cannot believe how time flies, Bognor even though only a few weeks ago (as I write this) seems ages ago. Possibly because of all the items I have been dealing with in CI as well as a hectic personal life both before and after.

But Bognor was a very successful event, thank you to all that attended and made the event happen. Thanks to all the members that helped wherever in any capacity, without you all we can't give what we do. I enjoyed the parade as well as the AGM, however I made the parade harder work than required, I had an idea of using a play on words again, but also wanting the prop to be tiring so that it matched our nightgowns. The prop was a bed covered in flowers; Sonny and I were in Night Wear as previously suggested, then a sign saying Bed In Plants, For Sale. Having a pair of wheels at one end and a pair of handles the other, it was heavier than I imagined, and thus it was tiring. Still we all learn, Sonny said he would kill me next time I made a prop that heavy, but I wanted to keep him fit.

However it was great to see so many parade props and lovely to see so many juniors joining in.

Before Bognor arrived I had been very busy making the new CI stall which I must admit I was most proud of. As well as that I came up with an idea of getting all the juniors involved in a sing song for the reception night, YMCA was the music and with the help of Ali (my partner) and Silkie and his family, one night we came up with the lyrics. As I couldn't contact all the juniors before the event we rushed around asking all the juniors to come for a rehearsal. Becky Boo was the lead singer and may I say many thanks to all the juniors for giving us a great demo. They are our future.

Since Bognor we have had a meeting, there are lots of events happening this year, I am most pleased to announce a Slapstick workshop over a September weekend, please look in this Joey and take note of what's on offer. While mentioning this, please do read items as often I/we get questions of when and what is happening, closure dates etc are always in the Joeys, such as writing an article for the Joey. I have been writing articles for the past 14 years and have not missed one yet, alas I sometimes do struggle to think what to write about and am sometimes pushed by our editor to get my article in. This is your club and we could do with fresh articles of your experiences.

With the economic climate being what it is, I had an email as some of you might have done, asking us if we would want to compete for the children's entertainer of the year 2010. So after several calls to make sure we were not just being used Sonny and I went, we performed on a barge on the River Thames, once there with a low ceiling I wondered how we would survive. It was a two stage event, we were to perform to a children's audience, the children would choose the winner of that day and then the winner would be entered for a final with other winners on the Friday of that week. We made it to the final and so another day was taken up by an audition to a children's audience. Well we didn't win, but we made a great impression to a new agent and were beaten to the top by a very long standing clown who has been in many circuses and had much schooling, so I was very happy. Some of you may be wondering why or who the clown is, he is not a member of CI, but I did talk with him as he was a member many years ago, he may join again one day. It's worth having ago and we met some great people and also spread the word of Clowns International.



Take care

Rainbow

Lady (to a tramp who's asked for a meal): "Do you like cold prunes and custard?"

Tramp: "I love it, lady."

Lady: "Well, call back later, it is very hot right now."

Young Horace was being taught how to box, but so far hadn't landed a single blow on his opponent.

"Don't worry, lad," said his teacher, "Keep swinging – the draft might give him a cold."

Billy: "Is your cold better?"

Tilly: "I've got a very bad head but I hope to shake it off soon."

He's so cold-blooded that if mosquito bit him it would get pneumonia.

You're like a summer cold!

What do you mean?

It's impossible to get rid of you!

What animal with two humps can be found at the North Pole?

A lost camel.

Neddy: "I've got a cold in the head."

Teddy: "It must be the first time you've had anything in your head,"

How do sheep keep warm in winter?

Central bleating.

What likes to spend summer in a fur coat and the winter in a swimsuit?

A Moth.

First cat: "Where do fleas go in winter?"

Second cat: "Search me!"

Waiter, waiter, there's a wasp in my pudding.

So that's where they go in winter.

Why don't vultures fly south in the winter?

Because they can't afford the airfare.

Teacher: "Why do birds fly south in the winter?"

Jim: "Because it's too far to walk."

Why did the canoeist take a water pistol with him?

So he could shoot the rapids.

What's thick, black, floats on water and shouts "Knickers!"?

Crude oil.

What do you get if you cross a bottle of water with an electric eel?

A bit of a shock really!

I have been making carnival heads for a number of years using cardboard and wire netting as a base on which to apply papier mache for the finished surface, modelling the overall appearance as the head progressed. For this work I amassed a quantity of cardboard I could draw on when needed. The bottom panels of lettuce boxes were ideal. Each visit to a supermarket added to my stock. Deena also was instructed on which boxes to choose as well. Unstained and without ventilation holes punched through. It was whilst I was cutting these bottom panels out I had an idea to use the sides of the boxes: A garden ornament that would spin around in the wind. First I cut out strips of cardboard about three inches wide by twelve inches in length that were tapered at both ends. I then pierced a small hole in the centre of each piece.

By fixing a cycle spoke upright in a board, I then threaded the pieces onto the spoke, glueing one side and then advancing the next piece slightly in a clockwise fashion past the previous one, and so on, producing a screw like effect. Building this to about thirty pieces high I then left it for the glue to set, repeating the process five more times.

A good few years before this, Deena modelled some small wire figures complete with clothes and uniforms. I made the wire skeletons for her to work on. Friend Fred Jackson, the blacksmith, had supplied me with some copper coated welding rods which enabled me to solder them together.



I now used these rods, about a yard long, to thread all the bits onto, glueing them together as I did so. Ending each end of the rod to form an eye, I hung it up in a tree on a short length of nylon cord and watched it rotate in the breeze. When the wind stopped winding it up, it unwound, just as did my pine spinners. I had to twist the wooden ones to start them going. The garden ones were going one way or the other all the time as long as there was a breeze.

I made no attempt to make the first ones weatherproof. Later I did so by putting a layer of cloth over them, as one would put on a coat of papier mache, using a PVA glue. To keep the weather out I varnished them. I did a whole series of these using different shaped layers of cardboard.

A disappointing moment came when I attended a craft fair and saw a wooden one for sale. Coloured wooden slats could be folded flat or arranged like a screw. The seller explained he'd bought them in to re-sell and the idea was hundreds of years old. There seems nothing is new in a world where some civilisations had been up and running for thousands of years before ours had even learned to walk properly.

There are far more people with jobs that have regular working hours than us self-employed, but it would be a mistake to think that people like me are able to work, or not, as the mood suits us. Life is not all that it seems. I never really stopped working. The time of day was not set in stone when I was at the bench fiddling about with some idea or other. Much of the time there would be far more than just one thing to think about. The working day would be spent on any job that was in hand. No finish, no cash. That rule applied to everything.

If you failed to make it to a children's party, craft fair or anything that required your presence, or if you turned up late, reductions in your wages were usually the result. Transport then, be it by car, van, cycle, or shank's pony, was the number one priority.

Whilst building, my vehicle was a tool carrier. Whilst clowning I was moving different tools. Props. For school visits it was the same. When I changed from a Fordson van to a camper van,



the garage that was seeing to my needs locally closed. As a result some redundancies came about for its employees. One, Peter Trent, decided to go it alone and I was one of his first customers.

Pete looked after my camper and kept it going for me for years after. As well as being a self-employed motor mechanic, he was also a part time fireman and, over the years, if there was a 'shout' and I heard the clanging of bells, then sirens, my fingers were always crossed for my four wheeled steed. Behave yourself, Pete's busy.

After the convention I was back on the runs to fairs and giving talks to earn the wherewithal. Some of these jobs were kind of different. A Cow Pie Rally in Dorking. Young Farmers Club in Crawley. Penshurst, Bentley, Liss, Hever Castle, Chertsey, Aldershot, Corn Exchange Brighton, Guildhall Portsmouth, All were points of the compass where duty called. Some were regular visits, others, one-offs.

One ploughing match we attended was remarkable for its weather. Arriving early for the competition in fields that had just been harvested, we found the competition already underway. The sun was shining and spread out before us was an idyllic scene. Tractors ploughing away. Furrows as straight as could possibly be wished for by the toiling drivers. Then the public arrived and the weather began to play more than a trick or two. Down came the rain, and the surface of the ground became a slippery nightmare. Flanders and Swan's rendering of their hit song 'Mud, Glorious Mud' immediately sprang to mind, followed by cries of 'oops' from the more polite, but slipping visitors. In general we were always able to deal with the vagaries of our British weather, but you can't put a ploughing match in a marquee.



Our set-up now was changing to suit our expanding business. In the early days we just had a table, a chair, and a cloth to cover it all. Now there were two tables and various other bits to position. My two-tiered system of drawers that held the myriad of fun names. Larger drawers for bigger designs. For fun names we had four drawers each for boys and girls. There were other compartments for the more rarely-asked-for, or names with obscure spellings. So if our rented space was, say, eight feet square, then three sides would be formed by pull-out drawers and boxes holding stock.

I had purchased two rolls of clear plastic tubing. From these I made up sachets eight inches deep with the name of the contents marked in black for boys and red for girls. Each contained about four fun names. Only one would be finished ready for sale, with a red dot on its back to denote I had cleaned its edges.

The unfinished names had just come off the saw that left jagged edges sometimes. As we sold one I would clean up another to replace it. I had a small working table that took only about three square feet of floor space. To anchor it for safe working I used to sit on its in-built seat. Thus while Deena sold stock I worked to replace it, adding that visible hand-made touch to our stand at the same time.

We felt we were an asset to any show in so far as we provided a constant demonstration of craft work. Deena also had a sideline for the ladies. Hand-crafted Art Nouveau style pewter jewellery from France, a leftover stock from our shop days. Of course we didn't sell bought-in items at craft events organised by the Guild.

There was another use for the sides of the lettuce boxes. Apart from buying paper bags to put the plywood goods in, I also carried a stock of pre-cut pieces of cardboard, to put in with the fun names. A safety measure well worth the trouble to reduce possible breakage on their journeys home.

A very important part of selling the thousand or so designs we carried, was letting our customers know we had them. I had recently taken an armchair apart which had been covered in a kind of artificial leather. I then re-formed this hide into a belt about twelve inches wide that revolved around the two large rollers. On this I printed all the fun names in stock and other items for sale. I still have it, and when sometimes I glance over the myriad of names on its surface, I wonder just how we ever did it.

Along with the roller we needed displays as well. Cutting six pieces of card just larger than our name-sized paper bags, I sandwiched them together between two continuous strips of felt, leaving an inch of felt between each card. Glued in on both sides, the cards provided backing on which to attach the fun names.

The whole thing could then be hung like a banner from the back screen, displaying six names or so as examples. We used strips of masking tape rolled up, so it was sticky all round, to attach the names on the display, and the spaces between the cards allowed the whole thing to be rolled up, with the fun names inside, for storage.



It was soon coming round to our second clown convention. This time, as in our first year, the event was to be held early in the spring. Later on and the circus touring season would have already started, and some of our members not be able to attend.

The second year programme had a page of thanks for the people who had made such a success of our first time out in the conventions game. Also a nice picture of our pipe smoking president, Ron Moody, with fresh photographs of Barney, Bingo and Doni, the organisers.

There was also a mention of yours truly, Clown Kerby Drill, with thanks for 'his hard work in enthusing teachers and school children in the area'. Another big thank you for the teachers and children for their participation in the event. Nice paragraphs that nestled amongst the list of credits due to all the other hard working members from the council, Arun Leisure, Bognor Chamber of Trade, Butlin's and others that had co-operated so successfully in 1985. Bon voyage for the 1986, event coming up.

We increased our catchment area for the school letters in our second year. No doubt the publicity of the first event had been well circulated and the increase in interest showed itself by an increase in requests for a visit by myself.

The basic show I took around was the same except that I altered my prepared drawings for those schools that had seen me the previous year. A prepared drawing is one that I had practised beforehand and could be reasonably confident of a good result. Name drawings taken from my audience of course I had to work up in the moment. We had some new additions. The Art and Craft Show 1986 was far more structured. Keith Jay came up trumps with another hundred pounds for prizes.

Ken Ford, a local artist who ran the Downlands Arts Centre, gave a special award for the 'Most Imaginative Entry.' His prize was a free course of attendance at the Centre, which was held in the Old School in Felpham. He was also one of our panel of judges. That year the subjects were, 'Clowns', 'Clowning', and 'Crazy Car or Vehicle,' with free entry as before. To show an example I made a small model car out of cardboard which could be extended like a trailer to carry a stick of Bognor Regis rock. It is now resident in our clown museum.

Deena and I took on the schools together for the first four years. So much happened in this period. We had four different Mayors, a change in council personnel, and folks on the committee came and went. With continuing support from the council and officers, Dick Coen, Roger Quinton, Alan Caig, and all the staff of the Regis Centre and the Tourist Office, the event grew in stature and importance.

Each time out the convention and procession grew and grew, with increasing schools support it blossomed into an international event. There was so much to appreciate in those times, but my greatest pride remains the Saturday march through town with all the clowns and children. It was the crowning moment for me, involving as it did most of Bognor Town, and for me the most memorable part.

Each year Deena and I devised a different competition for the schools to get their teeth into, and each one caused us to work very hard sorting out the rewards. We decided giving rosettes and certificates was the most effective way to do this.

I found a supplier in Bristol to make two sizes of rosettes for us. Large ones for schools' achievements and smaller ones for individual awards. In the end we were ordering these in their hundreds. I had two or three places where the entries could be put on show. In the Regis Centre itself, the windows of the tourist office and sometimes in Boots the Chemists window, in town.

Once I encouraged the children to do life size pictures of clowns to hang on a coat hanger. That year the entire wall space of the Regis Centre concourse was covered with the children's work. What a job putting them all up that was. I had left Deena to go round the schools first to judge and collect them, not forgetting taking them down afterwards and returning them. But what a sight it was to see.

Another year the children were set a task of designing a birthday card for a clown. A further task was designing wrapping paper for a clown present. The one competition that I remember every detail of was to make a clown egg.

I made about six examples to show what could be done, on my visits to schools that year. Explaining how to blow the egg contents out of the shell before you decorated it. How to use a defunct toilet roll tube as a very reasonable substitute for a body. How to use all sorts of bits and pieces of everything imaginable to dress said clown with. The response was incredible.

It also bore out my belief that the key to involving the community in our event was to work through the children for the best result. Obviously the older children were more skilled and able, but there were some marvellous efforts by the younger ones too. However, when we saw entries described as the work of a Jimmy Jamjar, or a Penelope Pincushion, with their ages given as five or six, the parental input was quite obvious. But it would have been a foolish person that would point a finger.

The Tourist Office windows looked out onto the forecourt of the Regis Centre, so with everybody helping we made a great display inside that everybody could see. Bognor Regis is regularly top of the U.K. sunshine league, known by the weathermen, worldwide. Blessed with its fair share of sunshine, some of which fell on the Tourist Office windows, a fault in our choice of venue for our display of our egg-based clown figures began to emerge.

There could have been any number of explanations why my explicit instructions about blowing the egg out first did not reach the ears of many of the competitors, but it was soon an unmistakable fact that this was the case. Also I had noticed that by the weight of some entries that even boiled eggs had been used by some.

First came an uncomfortable feeling as you entered the Tourist Offices that something was amiss. Each day increased this feeling. We had a good spell of spring sunshine that finally produced a pong that could no longer be ignored.

It must have been a strange sight, seeing us behaving like sniffer dogs, from the outside, rooting out the culprit eggs that caused the terrible smell. I can only say that in subsequent years the staff looked very closely at my requests to use their windows for displaying the current year's competition.



by David 'Conk' Vaughan

This year's New Years Day Parade was the 23rd and a special one, because it started from the Ritz Hotel. For the past 22 parades, they all started from Westminster (Big Ben). But unfortunately I have to report, it could be the last one for Clowns International.

The Event's Organisers said to me after the parade that they would like the clowns for future Parades to walk alongside the parade and not to be in it as a unit. I know the C.I Committee will wish for the clowns to continue to participate as a unit and be able to tell the public that Clowns International is the oldest Clowns Organisation in the world, however the committee have always pointed out that it is not an official C.I. event. However, helped by some volunteer "Friends of Clowns", it has always been a great event for collecting for our Clowns Benevolent Fund. It should be noted that only C.I.'s Charity has been allowed to collect as an addition to the Lord Mayor's chosen charity.

I believe I know why they want to change it.

The parade goes out live to the U.S.A (but not nationally in the UK) and that is why they turned the parade round so they could show some different views of London. The parade is run on the same lines as the parades in the states. If you asked anyone North of Watford (or indeed in the South of England) whether they know about the New Year's Day Parade, the answer 9 times out of 10 would be no.

I am also sorry to say that this year, I felt we did not look like a very organised professional organization. We were placed between two American marching bands and their turnout was very professional-looking and it made us stand out like a sore thumb. I am not saying the clowns did not look professional, we always do and the public that line the streets love to see us, but we had no banner to show who we were, there were no clown cars and only a total of 34 members turned up for it. Although that is about the average for the parade, we had only 17 clowns, 7 Juniors and the rest were 'Friends of Clowns'.

I appreciate that Members travel a long way for this event, many starting out early in the morning to be a part of a great day. It's a shame that the Organisers would prefer us not to be in the parade. So it would be nice to turn it around and show the event's Organisers at the 2011 parade that Clowns International is a professional organization and can turn out fully-organised with parade banners etc. I will do my best to negotiate with the organisers to continue to allow us to participate in future New Year Day Parades, if that is what C.I members want?

Finally, I would like to say a big thank you to those members that did make the effort and took part in the 2010 Parade.

In Honour of Stupid People In case you needed further proof that the human race is doomed through stupidity, here are some actual label instructions on consumer goods..

On a Sears hairdryer -- Do not use while sleeping.
(*That's the only time I have to work on my hair.*)

On a bag of Fritos -- You could be a winner! No purchase necessary. Details inside.
(*the shoplifter special?*)

On a bar of Dial soap -- "Directions: Use like regular soap."
(*and that would be???....*)

On some Swanson frozen dinners
-- "Serving suggestion: Defrost."
(*but, it's just a suggestion.*)

On Tesco's Tiramisu dessert (printed on bottom) -- "Do not turn upside down."
(*well...duh, a bit late, huh!*)

On Marks & Spencer Bread Pudding
-- "Product will be hot after heating."
(*....and you thought????..*)



Your Photos 1

I photographed all the eggs in their respective school groups before returning them. With every competition I did this, so I have a very good record of what we achieved during our four years at the reins. My only regret was not having a flash on my camera at the time. Relying on a light meter in our lounge, my studio, the photographs are not as bright as I would have liked. For one of the conventions I loaded Jim up with plenty of film and he did a wonderful job for me recording the gatherings and the walkabouts. We were very lucky to have started the conventions when colour photography had become the norm. The manager of our local Boots, Mr Bageley, was a great supporter of the event, and did us proud developing the pictures for me. My one regret is not having much in the way of photographs recording the Regis Centre's concourse walls covered with the children's paintings and drawings.

Another idea we put into practice was a clowns auction. At first we did it to support local children's charities. I did the rounds of the shops for items to be included in the sale. I am looking at my receipt book for 1986 so it's not a big deal for my memory here. Peters Newsagents, St Mary's School, The Body Shop, Homar Water Softeners, Glade Infants School, Boots the Chemists, W.H. Smith, Presto Supermarket, Elmer Post Office are listed. Just a small selection of the many that donated items. The event was later developed to include clown memorabilia and a much wider net spread, for future auctions.

The local weatherman, Les Allat, who was also a great good doer in our area, supplied me with the names of four local charities that received a cheque from the proceeds.



For one of the years I painted pictures of twenty clowns or so, as a gesture of support. Some real, some out of my head. This was also the year of small stickers advertising the event for lapel use. Also I had some mini certificates printed on which I drew my face names for one and all.

Kooky, who organised the clown's workshop programme, asked me to host some sessions. The most successful one was on prop making. I remember explaining the operation of one of my favourite discoveries, the target launcher. This used a blank cartridge to fire an empty tin can into the air. Intended for taking pot shots by the shooting community, I had used it in a number of props requiring something to be launched skyward with a bang.

I explained my own Pop Plant that could grow about eight feet in an instant if the fertiliser used is a sort of gunpowder. The main body of my talk though was about the growing range of adhesives available, and which I found most suitable in bonding the many materials like leather, felt and plastic sheeting that needed to be stuck safely together when making props. Afterwards the response of the older clowns, who like me, had mainly had a go at making their own props, was very heartening. I was on their wavelength and they said so.

I also did a workshop on my working in schools. Using my puppet routine with Tufty to explain that although the comedy element was important, it was the teaching element that was the reason for going into schools, enabling you to receive wages from the RSO's budget.

Three lovely surprises came to us during this period. Deena and myself were awarded two civic awards from Arun District Council. The third was given to me by Clowns International. An Honorary Life Membership. All three were given in gratitude for the work we did with the children.

During the conventions I didn't have time to do any al fresco work, but I was able to contribute to some of the stage shows. Some in the Royal Hall and others in the Alexandra Theatre. I loved working in the theatre. It was just the right size for me. You could really get a grip on the audience. Young or not so young. Out of convention time I worked a Saturday morning show for children with Malcolm the Magician, a local entertainer. We worked alternate weekends. Since the Regis Centre opened in 1976, I've been a regular performer there over the years.

Always a supporter of the venue through thick and thin, and it's had a very chequered existence. As the councils of Bognor and Arun have played havoc with on and off funding, so we've had to fight to keep developers from building flats on the site.

Later the district council allowed Whitbread to take over the lease of our Regis Centre. The company took half of the building for a pub restaurant. The Royal Hall went, and my sculptures with it. The Alexandra Theatre was also expected to be swallowed up, but a group of local volunteers won the right to run it by one vote in the council.

After closing for a short while, it re-opened as 'The Watershed'. To help popularise the newly named centre I lent them ten of my large, full size copies of the impressionists' most popular and well known paintings as décor. I remember this well owing to the brick walls on which we had to hang the paintings. They were a beautiful cream colour, but as tough as old boots. Trying to drill them for a rawlplug was agony.

But when they were up it was well worth it. There were copies of works by Manet, Van Gogh, Lautrec and others by Renoir, which included 'The Dancer', 'Two Circus Girls' and a full size 'Umbrellas'.

The battle to keep our only remaining entertainments venue has gone on ever since. The Watershed became The Hotham Arts Centre, and now it is The Regis Centre again. The latest plan to build 168 flats on the site only being thwarted by the credit crunch.

Run now by a charitable trust, Arun Arts, the Regis Centre is putting on more shows, and even cinema, than it hosted under council control, and it doesn't cost a penny on the council tax. This must be a big embarrassment for the council that still claims 'it isn't viable and should be demolished'. What a turn around. 'Tis all a far cry from the heady days of the first clowns convention.

I have every confidence that it will enjoy continued success in volunteers' hands. But I would, wouldn't I. Son Jim is the chairman.

'Using New Materials' is taken from 'Hal Brooks Clown Etc. – A Life in the Making' available now from all bookshops.

Hal Brooks 2010

Glori-B Says Thanks

Dear Friends

Thank you all again for making me so welcome at Bognor Regis. I'm always a bit hesitant when March comes around, as sometimes at clown functions I feel as if half of me is missing. Happy to say I never come home feeling that way.

I will always be grateful to 'Mr Woo' for talking 'Bock' into clowning. When he got 'Bock' to join Clowns International he found the door to a new world, enabling 'Bock' and I to meet, and I hope, make so many wonderful friends, something I can never thank him enough for.

'Slapstick', 'Anco', 'Salvo', 'Uncle Fred', 'Rainbow' and 'Sonny', so many more I could go on forever (but even I have to stop sometimes).

Please keep in touch, if you are in the St Albans area please give me a ring (blue sapphires preferred) and if when you ring and don't know how to address me, 'Mam' will do.

Hope to meet you all soon.

Thanks and Love.

'Glori-B' (HRH)

~~~Grandparents~~~

1. She was in the bathroom, putting on her makeup, under the watchful eyes of her young granddaughter, as she'd done many times before. After she applied her lipstick and started to leave, the little one said, "But Gramma, you forgot to kiss the toilet paper good-bye!" I will probably never put lipstick on again without thinking about kissing the toilet paper good-bye....
2. My young grandson called the other day to wish me Happy Birthday. He asked me how old I was, and I told him, 62. My grandson was quiet for a moment, and then he asked, "Did you start at 1?"
3. After putting her grandchildren to bed, a grandmother changed into old slacks and a droopy blouse and proceeded to wash her hair. As she heard the children getting more and more rambunctious, her patience grew thin.. Finally, she threw a towel around her head and stormed into their room, putting them back to bed with stern warnings. As she left the room, she heard the three-year-old say with a trembling voice, "Who was THAT?"
4. A grandmother was telling her little granddaughter what her own childhood was like: "We used to skate outside on a pond; I had a swing made from a tire, it hung from a tree in our front yard. We rode our pony. We picked wild raspberries in the woods." The little girl was wide-eyed, taking this all in. At last she said, "I sure wish I'd gotten to know you sooner!"
5. My grandson was visiting one day when he asked, "Grandma, do you know how you and God are alike?" I mentally polished my halo and I said, "No, how are we alike?" "You're both old," he replied.
6. A little girl was diligently pounding away on her grandfather's word processor. She told him she was writing a story. "What's it about?" he asked. "I don't know," she replied. "I can't read."
7. I didn't know if my granddaughter had learned her colours yet, so I decided to test her. I would point out something and ask what colour it was. She would tell me and was always correct. It was fun for me, so I continued. At last, she headed for the door, saying, "Grandma, I think you should try to figure out some of these, yourself!"
8. When my grandson Billy and I entered our holiday cabin, we kept the lights off until we were inside to keep from attracting pesky insects. Still, a few fireflies followed us in. Noticing them before I did, Billy whispered, "It's no use Grandpa. Now the mosquitoes are coming after us with flashlights."
9. When my grandson asked me how old I was, I teasingly replied, "I'm not sure." "Look in your underwear, Grandpa," he advised, "mine says I'm 4 to 6."
10. A second grader came home from school and said to her grandmother, "Grandma, guess what? We learned how to make babies today" The grandmother, more than a little surprised, tried to keep her cool. "That's interesting," she said, "How do you make babies?" "It's simple," replied the girl. "You just change 'y' to 'i' and add 'es'."
11. Children's Logic: "Give me a sentence about a public servant," said a teacher. The small boy wrote: "The fireman came down the ladder pregnant."  
The teacher took the lad aside to correct him. "Don't you know what pregnant means?" she asked. "Sure," said the young boy confidently. "It means carrying a child."
12. A grandfather was delivering his grandchildren to their home one day when a fire truck zoomed past. Sitting in the front seat of the fire truck was a Dalmatian dog. The children started discussing the dog's duties. "They use him to keep crowds back," said one child. "No," said another. "He's just for good luck." A third child brought the argument to a close. "They use the dogs," she said firmly, "to find the fire hydrants."
13. A 6-year-old was asked where his grandma lived. "Oh," he said, "she lives at the airport, and when we want her, we just go get her. Then, when we're done having her visit, we take her back to the airport."
14. Grandpa is the smartest man on earth! He teaches me good things, but I don't get to see him enough to get as smart as him!
15. My Grandparents are funny, when they bend over; you hear gas leaks, and they blame their dog.

[www.sempertexballoons.co.uk](http://www.sempertexballoons.co.uk)

Balloons etc;

**FANTASTIC PRICES;**

160, only £2.99. 260, only £2.99

360, only £4.99. 660, only £6.99

Hearts, £4.99. All Inc VAT

Graham Lee's

**"Care & Share" Balloon Fundays**

Come along and learn some new balloon models  
at these fun hands on lecture/workshop days.

**SPECIAL PARTY DAY**

**BIRMINGHAM WED 30th JUNE**

**BRAND NEW WEBSITE,**

[www.qualatexballoons.co.uk](http://www.qualatexballoons.co.uk)

**Guaranteed Low, Low Prices  
For All Your Qualatex Products.**

**020 - 8644 - 1983**

**balloon forum, [www.balloonchat.co.uk](http://www.balloonchat.co.uk)**

**Private Tuiton & Magic Club Lecture Available**

I did not think it was possible.

I did not think I could possibly have a better time at our "Circus Circus International Clowns Festival" at "Butlins" in Bognor Regis this year than I did last year...but I did.

Bluey, Conk, and I arrived 3 days early... as we did last year...to visit schools and nurseries in the area. This year I was scheduled to spend much more time with the 2-4 year old kids than I did last year and I loved every minute of it! Even the very youngest kids sat still and enjoyed my 1 hour long makeup, juggling, balancing, and magic "show". Spending time with the very youngest kids and having an absolute blast turned into an ongoing theme for me all week long.



I had the same fellow...Chris Ingham...acting as my school tour driver this year as I had last year. I have kept in touch with Chris through his wife Sharon via Facebook over the past year and we have become quite good friends. The Inghams had me to their lovely home for dinner ("Toad In The Hole"! ) after the second day's touring and before we knew it the time approached 1:00 AM!

I was a bit worried as our festival kicked off with the workshop day. My throat was starting to feel a bit "funny"...and not in a "hahahahaha" sort of way. I had 3 workshops to hold and I wondered if my voice would make it through the day. I attended 3 workshops and held my 3 workshops and I survived...but just barely. I would spend the rest of the festival in various states of voice/no voice.



I would need to publish my own entire edition of "The Joey" to cover all of the wonderful experiences I had at our festival, so I guess I should simply mention a few.

What a treat it was to...after being a CI member for 12 years now...to finally get some costuming made by Heidi! I had such a fantastic time Saturday changing into the various new pieces for my time on stage and during the "mix and mingle". I love it all but I do think that the nightshirt and cap is my favorite. The most amazing part of it all is that she created everything for me without using measurements. She just used photos for reference!

The Juniors never cease to amaze me with their enthusiasm and professionalism. I was happy when so many of them came to my "make your own juggling balls" workshop and jumped right in. I was thrilled when 3 of them asked me for an idea that they could use for a performance... but I do not think I will be buying any of their 20p lemonade any time soon! I started out clowning at age 10 so I do indeed have a soft spot in my heart for the Juniors...and they always do me proud.

I was honored to be selected as one of the acts for the Gala Christmas show being held this coming December in Monaco. Many tremendous clowns auditioned but very few spots were available. Over the next few months I will do my very best to take my act up a notch and to a higher level. As a former full time circus clown, knowing that I will be performing in the tent that is home to the most famous and prestigious circus festival in the world is absolutely mind blowing.

A family who had come to the "Circus Circus" weekend last year with their 2 and 4 year old daughters returned this year specifically because I was going to be back. Wow! What can a

clown say about that? They had told me last year that I was their daughters' favorite clown at the festival. They had bought one of the clocks with my face on it from the CI stall and had me autograph it. The girls had given me little drawings. Mom asked if they could write to me at home...and of course I said "yes".

Over the past year I have heard from them twice. The first time was through the mail about 2 months after our festival and the envelope included a HUGE drawing that still covers the lower half of my fridge to this day. The second contact came via email in January asking if I was going to be back in Bognor Regis this year. The family had made reservations at "Butlins" with the hope that I was going to be among the clowns.

At the time I received their email I had only known for certain that I would be at the festival for a grand total of about 48 hours!

The girls...Jennifer (now 5) and Madelin (now 3)... recognized me from all the way across the Skyline! I caught the sight of 2 little girls running at full speed out of the corner of my eye...turned...and there they were...with their Mom and Dad trailing behind. Of course they had some new artwork for me and we just had to take a few photos right then and there. We saw each other every now and then during the festival but our "quality time" together would come during the parade.

They had watched the parade in 2009 but things were going to be different in 2010. Jennifer...as "Candy the Clown"...and Madelin...as "Meme the Clown"...hoped to walk the beginning part of the parade with me. I had a little chat with Mom and Dad and invited them...if they thought the girls were up to it...to walk the entire parade route with me. It was as though I had just given them a million dollars! Really...could they do that? Absolutely! (This was cleared by CI parade organiser Bluey).



I think I just might have had more fun during that parade than just about any other parade I have ever been in! Dad was there with his video camera. Grandma and Grandpa drove 2 hours just to see their new "clown granddaughters" in the parade. Mom walked with us in the parade itself. I was a bit worried that the girls might tire of it all...but was I ever wrong! They hammed it up the whole way...especially 3 year old "Meme"! When we stopped for a bit of "mix and mingle" and such along the way the girls did funny little dances and funny poses. The entire family truly got into the clowning spirit...and I was oh so happy to go on that ride with them!

As it always does, our festival came to a close far too soon for my liking. Yes...my body was exhausted but I had not been able to visit with everyone I wanted to visit with. There were still people to see...stories to tell...ideas to share. I always hate the "goodbyes". Yuck. I always feel like I am leaving family...because I am.

Before I flew home I spent 3 delightful days at the home of Bluey and Jenny Brattle. They always take such good care of me and make me feel right at home. My thanks go out to them! I enjoyed the daily walks and all but really wish I had gotten to that submarine museum! (sorry...inside joke). By this time my throat problems from earlier in the week had turned into a pretty nasty flu-like condition (cough, chills, etc) but that did not stop me from having a marvelous time visiting the Clowns Gallery at Wookey Hole and the opening night performance of "Zippo's Circus" with Chris Stone and Bluey.

Thanks to everyone who made my 2 weeks in England so exciting...and I hope to see you all again very, very soon!

With very best wishes...  
"Toto"

## Hello I'm Boots,

A new clown to C.I., I wanted to write something about my first C.I. festival. It was in Bognor Regis in March. As well as being my first festival, it was my first trip to England. I was seriously excited from the moment we left our house in Strangford, Ireland. I think I was more excited than Silly Tilly and BB Bubbles because they had both been before.

The first clown I met was Conk who made me feel really special and welcome. He gave us all the information we needed for the week. Then we went to find our chalet. Before we even got out of the van we had met lots of other clowns and they all stopped to say hello to us. By the end of the first day it felt like I had a whole new big family.

The workshops were fantastic and I learned so much. I did the balloon one with Bluey first. It was mostly adults and I thought it might be too hard but he kept making sure we were managing to keep up. My aunt Silly Tilly had to help BB Bubbles as well as me. Next I did the improvisation one with Becky Boo and it was brilliant!

I met lots of brilliant clowns and hope I see them again soon. Curly and Acorn and I spent a lot of time together swapping tricks and ideas. Out of all the bigger clowns I made one especially great friend – Silkie. He was a great laugh and taught me some brilliant tricks. He also made sure I was ok in the restaurant and when I wasn't well. He will always be the best mate ever – maybe it's because he's sort of a foreigner, just like us (he's from Hungary).

I also want to mention the Juniors and I have one very special junior in mind – BB Bubbles. Since I met him, just over a year ago, he's always been there for me, not just in clowning but in everyday people life too. Thanks BB Bubbles and thanks to every single clown I met in Bognor Regis because you all helped make my first festival fantastic.

Ta for now,  
Keep smiling  
Phoebe "Boots" McAree.

---

## Artist/Filmmaker

wants to make an intimate film portrait of a clown.

Please call Jordan:  
07530126832  
for more information.



**“Frankie’s Festiclown Show”** for Les Enfants de Frankie Charity,  
Monaco, December 2010

By Clown Bluey

After three auditions and try-outs, the final one being held at our “Circus Circus” International Clowns Festival in Bognor Regis in March, I am very pleased to confirm that our Cast for this extra special Christmas Show for needy and sick children in Monte Carlo is now complete. I believe that the acts we have chosen will make for a very strong show and will be a credit to Clowns International.

The Show Cast (in no particular order) is:

Frankie – Monaco  
Arturo - UK  
The Rapide Bros. - UK  
Husik (with Gulio) – Ukraine  
Toto - USA  
Silkie – Hungary  
Clown Bluey & Conk – New Zealand & UK  
CDDC (Bel & Denni) – UK & Denmark  
Rainbow & Sonny – UK  
Gulio & Prima – Ukraine

Front of House Clowns selected are:

Piccolo, Susi Oddball, Kooky, Silly McB, Pippa, Gadget, Eek, Pezinho, Bubblz, Julius, Jo-Jo, Paliette, Dr Quackers, Max, Tinker, Pjot.

Dawn Davison (C.I. Photographer)

Production and Direction for Clowns International  
Blue “Clown Bluey” Brattle

For Les Enfants de Frankie organisation  
Chris “LO” Stone and Francien “Frankie” Giraudi [President]

---

## A Thank You from Dizzy Dez

A THANK YOU

Dizzy Dez and Margo would like to thank all the friends and clowns who sent cards and sympathy’s and phone calls to express support to Margo and myself in our loss of daughter Marriane at the age of 55. Marriane lost her fight against throat cancer, diagnosed five years ago, which spread to her lungs and was terminal.

During her illness, she raised funds for ‘Risley Hospice’ which supports patients with terminal illness’s and is a day care centre.

The card which was signed at Bognor Regis will be a certain reminder to us that clown’s are really the best of friends and the flowers sent were a lovely thought.

Thank you to C.I. Committee for your help and support and to every member let me say God Bless and thank you once again.

Dizzy Dez and Margo.

***The Vitoria Summer Festival  
Azores Clown Festival, Terceira  
5 - 9 August 2010 (travel days included)***

The dates of the Festival in Terceira, as notified to members by e-mail, snail mail and on our website, are on the 6, 7 and 8 August, travel days being on the 5th and 9th August. Ideally, we needed this information for publication in our last magazine, but those of us who have performed in Portugal and the Azores before will know how laid back the Portugese seem to be in regards to these matters!

When this issue went to press, we still had some vacancies, so if you wish to be considered for this festival (working clowns only please), telephone, e-mail, or send the form below to me asap. All selected clown members will receive their return Flights, hotel accommodation (based on two people sharing), meals and 150 Euro per clown expenses.

My telephone number is 023 80873700, or e-mail [bluey@clownbluey.freeserve.co.uk](mailto:bluey@clownbluey.freeserve.co.uk)

Kind regards  
Bluey (Festival co-Organiser for C.I.)

-----

**Registration / Application Form - The Vitoria Summer Festival  
Azores Clown Festival, Terceira**

I wish to be considered for the Terceira Clown Festival. I enclose a Deposit of £100.00 made payable to Clowns International, which I understand will only be returned to me if I am not selected. I also understand if I am chosen the cheque will be banked, The funds will be returned to me at the departure airport. I accept that I will forfeit the deposit once the flights have been booked, and I fail to turn up. On arrival in Terceira, I agree to participate in the Festival's Programme as set out by the Organisers.

Name: ..... Clown Name .....

Membership Number ..... Contact Tel: .....

Mobile: .....

I have read, understand and accept the conditions stated above.

Signed .....

**Please return asap to Clown Bluey, Festival co-Organiser, 30 Sandpiper Close,  
Marchwood, Southampton, SO40 4XN**



Your Photos 2

# HEIDI'S COSTUMES



Quality Costumes designed and made to your specification

Clown Dungarees,  
Shirts, Custom  
Suits.....

Call me  
to discuss your  
requirement



## HEIDI'S

Call Heidi at  
Heidi's Costumes  
on 01923 254 609

[www.heidiscostumes.co.uk](http://www.heidiscostumes.co.uk)

*Feeling in the dark  
about getting paid,  
contracts, insurance and  
other work stuff?*

*We shed light on it  
all for our members*

  
**Equity**

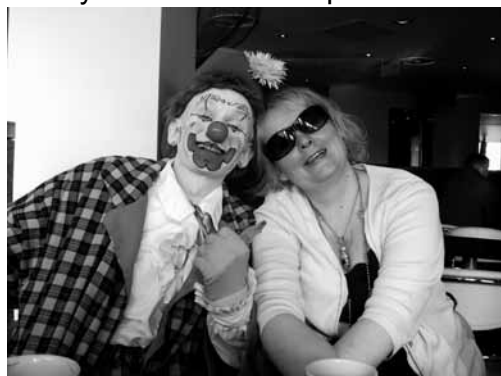
[www.equity.org.uk](http://www.equity.org.uk)  
[mday@equity.org.uk](mailto:mday@equity.org.uk) ♦ 020 7670 0235

I'm just back from our "Circus,Circus" International Clowns Festival in Bognor Regis and I have so much to talk about! It might take more than this one time in the 'Joey' to tell you everything I want to say.

This year was the first time I came to the festival without my mummy and I did miss her a bit. I thought all the big clowns went to festivals without their mum's until I met Rainbow's mummy. That was a big surprise. She was very kind. When we went for coffee she found the place that gives you the biggest coffees in the whole world. Rainbow tried to say she was his granny but he was just teasing. It's hard to say if she looks like Rainbow because he had his make up on but I think she does look a bit like him. They have the same sort of hair and they're both kind. I noticed something about Rainbow this year. Rainbow is always trying to be everywhere at the same time.



This year I tried to help out at the Red Nose Academy. That is where children who are not clowns get the chance to try out some circus stuff. Most of the children were bigger than me but there was one really little girl who couldn't do most of the tricks. I made up a game with my hat and some juggling balls to play with her. Every time my hat was full of balls I tried to put it on my head and I got a shower with the balls and she laughed. Silly Tilly said I did a good job with that idea.



As well as teaching things to other children I learned a lot this year myself. I tried stilt walking for the first time. I finally managed to juggle with 3 scarves. I got a bit better at diabolo. I made up lots of new tricks with my hat. My favourite one is spinning it on a plate stick and using the stick to put it on my head. My auntie Silly Tilly helps me a lot with learning circus stuff. It's quite handy to have her around sometimes. We had to sign so many autographs I learned to spell my clown name too. My teacher at normal school doesn't really want me to write it on my work though. I don't see what the problem is because the whole class knows that I am a clown, that's my job.

Another very useful clown is Sonny. Some clowns mess around all the time even when they're just being people. Me and Sonny had some good chats about things and we gave each other some good ideas. He played jokes on me too but he was serious at the right times. You know I'm quite interested in hats. Well I talked about this with Sonny. We even tried each other's hats on. But we decided my hat looks better on me.

I would definitely tell all juniors, if you get a chance to go to a festival, then go. It's the best chance to learn more about being a good clown. You get to chat about it with other clowns, you get to try out your new ideas and you get to watch. Watching is the best bit. I watch other clowns and ordinary people too because they're sometimes funny by accident, then I think about it all for a long time.

Keep smiling on the inside,

Stephen "BB Bubbles" Breen



With the ever raising costs and dwindling income that effects any voluntary organisation, C.I. is not alone. The cost of putting on a festival is always high especially when you consider what is involved. Accommodation, food, lecturers, entertainment etc. and funds or sponsorships have to be found for all of this.

If you look at festivals held in America, a country that has many more members of clown clubs than here, it is amazing to see what they are charged for attending such events. \$200 registration fee is common and then there is the cost of the hotel accommodation to add to that. Then you can add your travel costs and in many cases for those living in the country, it soon mounts up and \$1000 can easily be reached. Yet here we expect a small club to fund all this and more for a small registration. At a time when money is tight and soon to be even tighter for local authorities and business not wanting to pay out large sums of money for the likelihood of no return, is it right that we should expect everyone to jump to our requests for sponsorship etc?

We have so far been lucky in that Butlins has been able to assist in supplying C.I. with accommodation, food and space for lectures and our AGM. However we must be realistic in that at some point it may well end and what will we do then? Do we go begging again to local authorities and businesses expecting them to pay for our profession, hobby etc? Or should we be thinking of how we can have a festival, AGM etc that we don't have to find thousands of pounds for?

I know that I'm not alone in my thoughts that I would like to see C.I. events taking place two, three or even four times a year and in different places around the country. These events could be simple weekends, i.e. arrive Friday and leave Sunday. Evenings could be social events, a drink, a bite to eat and a time to chat. I for one would be happy to find and pay for my own accommodation and we could find a local venue for meeting up and having that drink, meal and chat. We could approach the local authority and ask if they would sponsor any licences and allow us to al fresco in their town centre, we don't need to do a parade. This means that members would have a choice of venues that could be near them to attend.

It goes without saying that yes, I am happy that we have our festival at Bognor Regis, but I'm realistic in that it could all end tomorrow. A weekend event doesn't have to have hundreds of people attending to be enjoyable, effective and informative (i.e. getting the name of C.I. out to the public) - just a few members who are willing to put the effort in to make it work.

The committee of C.I. work hard to try and please its members, they get no thanks for when things go right but blasted when things go wrong. Yet how many members are prepared to assist them? How many members are prepared to stand for committee? How many members help by sending articles in for "The Joey"? How many members are prepared to use the website? I could go on, but my point is that this is your club, your festival, or Joey. Let us all take pride in it, help where we can and attend where we can.

Stevie D

---

## Last Chance - Azores!

August 5th till 9th Clown Festival at Praia da Vitoria, Terceira, Azores

There are very few places left for this very popular weekend in the Azores (working clowns only) flight and accommodation paid for, plus Euros 150 expenses from UK and Europe.

A deposit of £100 is required as a guarantee of attendance, refundable to UK clowns at UK airport for those succesful applicants, European clowns after arrival in Terceira.

If you have not paid your deposit, you are not registered, please send remittance to Bluey at 30 Sandpiper Close, Marchwood, Southampton SO40 4XN or contact on (44) (0) 2380 873700.

## Who is scared of Clowns?

On a recent Friday afternoon I got a phone call from Equity - could I appear on the 'Today' programme (BBC Radio 4) to talk about people being scared of clowns the next day? No time to hesitate, so I agreed. But how could I possibly communicate the many thoughts I have on the subject into a conversation of a few minutes?

Despite having to awake before dawn to get into motley (as requested) and to arrive at the studio before 8am, the item went well. It started with a pre-recorded interview from Blackpool Tower Circus where they were running workshops for people scared of clowns. Back live, they had on the 'phone a professor of psychology who, fortunately, trivialised fear of clowns by comparing it with fear of buttonholes and suggesting that it would usually be caused by a childhood experience. I was therefore able to take the argument forward by saying that it was normal for a minority of small children to be nervous of new experiences, including meeting a clown but this would only be turned into a "phobia" if the child was left feeling unsafe, or worse was given negative reinforcement generally by over-anxious parenting. When asked if I believed these fears could be "cured", I replied that I thought that they could be.

In my some 36 years as a full time professional clown, I have always been aware of the dilemma, that while my objective is to put smiles on as many faces as possible, there has always been a minority made scared by my presence. Often this was clearly precipitated by inappropriate parental behaviour. Typically an over-enthusiastic mum would insist that their toddler should be sat right at the front when they were obviously happier sitting on their knee at the back. On other occasions parents would pick up their child and push them right in my face. I also observed that when appropriately supported, the child who started by being afraid would often be my most enthusiastic fan by the end of my show. Yet again I have long lost count of the number of parents who have come up to me after the show to tell me that I was the first clown that their child had enjoyed.

One classic example was the 6 year old girl who arrived after my show in Highgate, who, I was informed, was "scared" of all children's entertainers and so always turned up afterwards. The reality was that she displayed no signs of being scared of me! What she was getting was extra attention from her mother who stayed with her for the rest of the party.

There does, however, seem to have been a change during, say, the last 10 years where not only children but people in their teens and twenties seem proud to be "scared of clowns". One of the first signs was the appearance of anti-clown web pages on the net as being the most visited in the searches for clown. This seems to have subsided recently but the negative atmosphere lives on.

So what can we clowns do?

There seems to be an attitude that clowns are likely to attack or embarrass. This is I believe the province of the trickster or joker, cousin to the clown. For me, clowning is about making a fool of oneself, not of the audience. I always try to make sure that I am the butt of the joke and try and make the audience as safe as possible.

One alternative is to minimise make-up as is frequently the case with East European clowns or work with none at all. While this works for some it seems to me to lose some of the magic of the traditional clown. I think make up if done well is part of creating the wonderful world of the clown.

Fear and laughter are closely related. For example the humour in a joke such as slipping on a banana skin is that it "could be me", but is made safe by it happening to the clown. So please clown away, but be aware of those nervous reactions and do your best to make laughs not tears.

Keep clowning,

Rhubarb the Clown

## I Can't Believe We Made It!

If you lived as a child in the 40's, 50's, 60's or 70's, looking back, it's hard to believe that we have lived as long as we have . . . . As children, we would ride in cars with no seat belts or air bags. Our cots were covered with bright coloured lead-based paint. We had no childproof lids on medicine bottles, doors or cupboards, and when we rode our bikes we had no helmets. We drank water from the garden hose and not from a bottle, horrors! We would spend hours building go-carts out of scraps and then ride down the hill, only to find out we forgot the brakes. After running into the bushes a few times we learned to solve the problem.

We would leave home in the morning and play all day, as long as we were back when the streetlights came on.

No one was able to reach us all day. No mobile phones. Unthinkable. We got cut and broke bones and broke teeth, and there were no law suits from these accidents. They were accidents. No one was to blame, but us. Remember accidents?

We had fights and punched each other and got black and blue and learned to get over it.

We ate cakes, bread and butter, and drank cordial, but we were never overweight . . . .we were always outside playing. We shared one drink with four friends, from one bottle and no one died from this.

We did not have Playstations, Nintendo 64, X-Boxes, video games, 65 Channels on pay TV, video tape movies, surround sound, personal mobile phones, personal computers, Internet chat rooms . . . we had friends. We went outside and found them.

We rode bikes or walked to a friend's home and knocked on the door, or rung the bell, or just walked in and talked to them. Imagine such a thing. Without asking a parent! By ourselves! Out there in the cold cruel world! Without a guardian - how did we do it?

We made up games with sticks and tennis balls, and ate worms, and although we were told it would happen, we did not put out very many eyes, nor did the worms live inside us forever.

Footy and netball had tryouts and not everyone made the team. Those who didn't had to learn to deal with disappointment . . . . .

Some students weren't as smart as others so they failed a grade and were held back to repeat the same grade. Tests were not adjusted for any reason. Our actions were our own. Consequences were expected. No one to hide behind. The idea of a parent bailing us out if we broke a law was unheard of. They actually sided with the law - imagine that!

This generation has produced some of the best risk-takers and problem solvers and inventors, ever. The past 50 years has been an explosion of innovation and new ideas. We had freedom, failure, success and responsibility, and we learned how to deal with it all.

And you're one of them. Congratulations!

Please pass this on to others who have had the luck to grow up as kids, before lawyers and Government regulated our lives "for our own good . . . ."

*Dandelion the Magical Clown*



## Colouring Competition Winner

Winner of the last issues colouring competition is  
Ellie 'Twit' Twite aged 8

We are taking a break from the competition see you again in the winter issue

## SEWING FOR THE SOUL – HOMEMADE COSTUMING HOW I GOT STARTED by DR QUACKERS .



My very first costume was made during a clown course at Circus Space when I was invited to take on the character of Madame Barbarovna, a clown ballet dancer with an operatic voice! Whoops!

I bought myself a pair of black dancing shoes which I use to this day and are customised with various multicolour laces, I found an all-in-one shocking pink leotard, also an old very lacy Ann Summers “crop top” type bra to wear on the top and made myself a multicoloured, multilayered net “tutu”, using the elastic from a pair of Max’s old Y-fronts (whoops, he is a bit more up-to-date now!). The tutu was adorned with the bows for wrapping Xmas or birthday presents along with some of those beads used to decorate a Christmas tree. I had a thick three inch green satin ribbon for the waist band, and a Christmas bow round my neck with a couple of large red feather plumes for my head. I certainly looked an absolute nana, although I was the only one in the group to have taken the trouble to get out my sewing machine, and a needle and thread and make something! The others were rather amazed!

After a course about “The Sacred Art of Clowning”, we were asked to find costumes and I was instructed not to worry, but more to “fall in love” with something that would be true to my clown character . I “fell in love” with a tie dye pair of dungarees which a friend let me borrow, and realised that was what I wanted for myself. However, at that time I was unable to find any tie dye instructions or indeed any suitable dyes and I wanted a costume to encompass all colours of the rainbow. I bought a pair of painter’s white overalls from “Mr Overalls” in the largest size I could, and dyed them plain yellow. I sewed a red heart on the front pocket from the material of an old favourite dress, and some friends at the accordion band gave me some material to make some patches to customise the legs. I knitted a pair of woolly rainbow socks by hand. I adorned a purple little old lady woolly hat with flowers and badges and I found a green T-shirt to cover with badges and that basically was my first “get up”. It felt good, but for chilly days I bought a red workman’s coat from “Mr Overalls” and again sewed on empowering badges. My old school blazer badge and my “Yoga for Health” badge from Ickwell Bury. I even sewed some of the lace from my wedding dress (that tickled my chin too much!) on the pocket!

I wore that for years until I had a priceless discussion with “Vercoe”. When he heard I wanted to be a Hospital Clown, he recommended I meet Richard Snowberg at “Clown Camp”.

I attended three weeks tutoring at “Clown Camp” on two consecutive years and really “fell in love” with the absolute beauty and professional finish of the costumes made by Betty Cash. Uh! How I really WANTED one of those jumpsuit dungaree beauties she makes! However, they were expensive. “Could I allow myself to spend that much money?” Well, I needn’t have bothered to even consider the conflict because at that particular “Clown Camp” Betty didn’t have anything near my size, let alone be baggy as well! I found myself just too tall!

We made great friends with a clown called “Twinkle”, Linda Kelly, and had such a lot of fun with her, we are still good friends. She was helping on the stall and saw my dilemma. “I know what we can do”, she said, “I’ll take you to the fabric warehouse, they make all sorts of fabrics for hospital personnel who work on the children’s ward, I know for sure you will love them!”.

Well, I had never seen anything like the fabrics in all my life and by the yard they were extremely reasonably priced. Luckily too, airline baggage allowance was generous. With Max’s encouragement, I must have come home with 3 yards of material of about six or seven fabrics suitable for hospital work. Uh! I was SO excited! I could design my own

costumes, create my own hospital characters, and have my own wardrobe for my hospital clown work.

I went to every lecture there was by Betty Cash on costuming, and also all the lectures by a beautiful lady called Donna Branham who gave all the “ins and outs” of how to make clown costumes, put on the finishing touches, make sure that they were weather friendly, comfortably cool in summer and suitably warm in the winter. We were taught how to make the best out of colour combinations, and how to create pockets with plenty of forethought about how we would wish to use them. We were instructed how to alter paper patterns with regard to creating a professional fit even if our bodies were not a standard “off the peg” women’s dress size /man’s suit size. It was just fabulous information for creating ordinary everyday wear, or even creating dresses for special occasions, that look professional instead of that telltale often derogatory term “homemade”.

The techniques shared were also designed to help give the confidence to make fabric props, change bags, animal puppets and with imagination (and a lot of experience and practice) indeed, even clown millinery and handbags become a possibility too as the inspiration grew for making something to be unique and indeed “just for me” as it were!

I discovered that as I created my costumes, gradually my “clown persona” grew during the sewing and the ideas each step of the way were coming from my soul and from my love of the fabrics and colours I was using. When it came to try on my outfit, I became completely “at one”, and authentic from my personal inner soul space and also from the outer clown fashion that I had created.

When I climb into my costumes I am becoming my own creation.

Another aspect that dawned on me while I was creating the costumes was not necessarily that I was creating “Dr Quackers”, but I became painfully aware of that hurt, tiny, lonely, poorly inner child within myself who was dreaming up Dr Quackers as some sort of saving Grace for the times she needed help, and no one was around, indeed, especially when she was in hospital.

I became interested in the Tarot and discovered there was one card which suggested that if there were difficult situations or experiences from the past which were difficult to resolve then it was helpful to rewrite the experience:

1. As it seemed to have happened, from our own memory.
2. As it happened from another person’s point of view in the experience.
3. As it happened from the vantage point of an observer watching the situation.

continued on page 30

### **Award Photos on Page 29**

- |                                          |                                                                                                    |
|------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Gulio                                 | Silly Willy Award for Best August                                                                  |
| 2. Jolly Jingles                         | Trevarthen Award for Best Whiteface Clown                                                          |
| 3. Kate Stone (collected by Chris Stone) | Grimaldi Award for Outstanding Service to Clowns International                                     |
| 4. Roly                                  | The Barbara Miller Award for the Clown Showing Outstanding Qualities of Precision, Attack & Timing |
| 5. Bel & Denni                           | The Rainbow Award for Most Innovative Act/Mime                                                     |
| 6. Benjo                                 | The Clown Bluey Award for Best Parade Gag/Prop (sponsored by Clown Bluey)                          |
| 7. Basher                                | The Clowns International Award for Best Junior                                                     |
| 8. Bluebottle & Jazzy                    | The Taffy Memorial Slapstick Award (previously the Stone/Taffy Award for Best Slapstick)           |
| 9. Boots                                 | The Bock Award for Most Promising Junior Newcomer (sponsored by Glori-B)                           |
| 10. Nangaz                               | The Top Hat Award (sponsored by Slapstick & Anco)                                                  |

# Our Award Winners 2010



1



2

3



4



5



6



7



8

9



10



Your Photos 3

4. As if a higher creative power were watching i.e. a Guardian Angel, Great Spirit or God or whatever one believes governs existence.
5. As a situation comedy.

Gradually it became clear to me, other characters were playing a part in the Dr Quackers story. The main character turned out to be "Baby Barbie" a two year old (not averse to the odd tantrum) being nurtured in hospital by Dr Quackers, Matron Mabel Pondlebooby Makepeace, a nun puppet called "Sister Chastity", two peaceful wounded soldiers who had already recovered from their wounds and a Quackers consultant type character wearing a "consultant" white coat!

Frederick Benjamin Alouyshus Frog puppet is about transforming dis-ease for something better, and Leonardo the lion puppet is about discovering the artist within who can paint, Frederick Frog junior is about finding a singing voice and discovering accordion music played by a clown maybe a distinct possibility for me.

Looking for a solution to a costume for really cold weather, led to discovering three fleece materials, a rainbow one, a frog one and a music one which created possibility for new designs in an overcoat, and two, two piece trouser suit type costumes, along with the silly hats to match!

Eventually, the feminine side of "Madame Barbarovna" emerged again as a shy Pierrot Whiteface in glitter costume with a feather in her cap and an absolute joy for rekindling some commitment with a degree of seriosity for playing her accordion perhaps with a bit more accomplishment and definitely a new sense of the inner joy of PLAY!

Over this last week I have created six new hats to complete the costumes, that so far have not been seen.

One day I dream of displaying all these costumes on manikins to depict the hospital scene that directed me to nursing, medicine and clowning, or to create a DVD/video to demonstrate the healing power of creativity.

"Physician, Healing Herself" and sewing together the threads of her soul archetypes has certainly been extremely insightful and certainly has made a lot of sense about the purpose of my own existence, which is genuinely to empower the soul who I am supposed to be, in helping myself and others to make more sense of the meaning of life and finding the most appropriate way forward on life's journey.

I have to say I am a bit of a tinker for falling in love with fabrics, especially the special offer left over metres at the ends of the rolls, which I still have to work with!

Nearly all of the fabric obtained from the warehouse near Clown Camp, has been made into costumes . . . . . I am left with a pair of white dungarees and a tie dye set I got for Christmas, so if anyone is interested in a Tie Dye Party here in the summer let me know as there is far too much dye for just one pair of dungarees!

Probably then it is about time I found my niche for spending a bit more time wearing the costumes and clowning!

WARNING: Don't ever fall in love with too many fabrics at once!

27.02.2010 Barbara Cooper "Dr Quackers".

*(Part 2 Will be more about the practicalities and considerations in Costume Creation for those who wish to try their hands at "Seam Making" skills.)*

"Brumming along on the old sewing machine can be quite satisfying and even fun!"

At the invitation of RAUNDS Youth Action Group obtained through local clown Natasha "PIPPA" Oakes. Clowns of CLOWNS INTERNATIONAL may, if they wish, take part in the Parade and Fun Day on Saturday 18 September and an outline of that part of the event is given below.

10.00 Gather in Raunds - Make up facilities to be advised through CI webpage

12.00 Parade starts. Upon arrival at the Football field those clowns wishing to may mix and mingle for a few hours. Clowns International's face painting and merchandising stalls will be there and it would be appreciated if clowns would try and focus attention on those to maximise sales

5.00 Onwards Clowns International Social - all members are invited whether they have helped in the above Parade or not

Note there is a Travelodge nearby which currently provides twin bed accommodation for around £30 but it is suggested you speak to one of the Organisers below before booking. If you are coming by train please book to Wellingborough and if you advise the Organisers they will try to arrange a pick up for you.

**WORKSHOP/LECTURE – 19<sup>th</sup> Sept**

In conjunction with the Educational Charity, THE CLOWNS' GALLERY LIMITED, on the 19<sup>th</sup> September there will be a Workshop/Lecture event where practical help will be given on SLAPSTICK comedy which in simpler terms was originally being proposed by our Chairman, Gordon "Rainbow" Sharpe, and motley/slap are not required on this day and of course you need only attend the social aspects of the previous day if parading does not appeal although of course it would help the Organisers

10am till 4pm Workshops on Slapstick  
Free to all CI members. A charge equivalent to the Friend of Clown subscription will be charged to any non members attending.

Further details will be given through the CI Webpage and through Facebook "Clowns International" as details are still be finalised as the Joey goes to print

.....  
**CONTACT ORGANISERS**

Chris Stone  
01202 301602

Blue Brattle  
02380 873000

**On packaging for a Rowenta iron** -- "Do not iron clothes on body."  
*(but wouldn't this save me time?)*

**On most brands of Christmas lights** -- "For indoor or outdoor use only."  
*(as opposed to what?)*

**On Boot's Children Cough Medicine**  
-- "Do not drive a car or operate machinery after taking this medication."  
*(We could do a lot to reduce the rate of construction accidents if we could just get those 5 year-olds with head-colds off those bulldozers.)*

**On a Japanese food processor** -- "Not to be used for the other use."  
*(now, somebody out there, help me on this. I'm a bit curious.)*

**On Nytol Sleep Aid** -- "Warning: May cause drowsiness."  
*(...I'm taking this because???)*

**On Sainsbury's peanuts** -- "Warning: contains nuts."  
*(talk about a news flash)*

My Big Day was coming up, real soon - at one point it felt like ages away, and then it was upon me.

I had been brushing up for days, sometimes practising for hours at a time!

The Music that would be accompanying me had previously been selected and what a task that was – cut, paste, edit, edit and EQ etc, etc!

The Costume - making your own Customised Costume, is a mammoth journey in its own right – once you have the image, you have to materialize it... I wanted it to be Modern but not American!

The Face - oh what a headache, after years and years of being an Auguste...

And with not many White Face Clowns to draw Inspiration from and knowing that some people had tried and failed. Maybe they had had difficulty breaking out of the mould, (comfort in numbers?) but I was going for it!



My daughter and son and his son would be there to see me perform.

On Stage in front of the General Public and My Peers.

Oh what excitement! It could be a very proud moment in my life?

Something that My Children would remember me by... and also tell their children....

If you have never been to the Grimaldi Memorial Service, then you ought to go at least once, just for the experience. Here the local people of the church put on lunch for us Clowns (*Ed. Food paid for by C.I.*). We all sit and have a natter, catching up on what's been happening in each other's lives (especially those member that have not signed up to facebook)!

Then there is the Church Service, where all us Clowns sit at the front.

The remembrance of those clowns that have 'passed over' and our founder member, Joey Grimaldi.

Oh I forgot to mention all the Photographers, snapping away, oh what a pain they are! (They really should not be there during the Service).

Then we come to the show, which this year will be performed in the church hall...

Then for me it starts to go wrong!...

No prep talk from the organiser.

No liaison beforehand as to what kind of performance one might be putting on.

Oh my god - what about the running order - found it at last, a scrap of paper pinned up on the wall - just a few scribbles and crossings out's on it!

But there I am – 2nd on...

At last, the moment that I had been waiting for, for years! (it had always been denied to me, for one reason or another).

Hand over my music disc.

Only 6 minute 20 seconds - this would be my claim to fame!

What an Emotional Moment - for my children and me...

I get introduced as Rico...

I come out onto the stage...

My cue for the music is said...

I am off - into my dance routine.

This is the moment! My Children are there, Filming For Prosperity!

Then I notice the children at the front are pointing to my right, jumping up and down trying to get my attention.

The Music is still playing - so The Show Must Go On, whatever!

I take a quick glance around, to see for myself what is occurring...

Then carry on with the dance act - getting ready for the Grand Finale!

To my horror, a fishing net was put over my head and I was dragged off the stage...

Music still playing! Oh what a \*!#! up!

How could anyone do that! - I was in a state of shock!

What had I done, had I done something wrong!? I wanted the ground to open up and devourer me.

I was told by spirit to keep my cool and not cause a scene.

Then the Compere went back on stage (after dragging me off) and said 'I thought he was going to take all his clothes off'.

Well that was it - anger did not come into it!

Everything I had worked towards... all the hours of preparation 'laid to waste' - by the actions of another individual!

What a bitter disappointment to my children and me.

When I got home I felt that the best course of action was to report this behaviour to the committee. (COPY OF COMPLAINT SHOWN BELOW)

I checked in the constitution how to proceed.

I wrote an email to the Secretary - explaining what had occurred.

An encouraging response was received back, saying the matter would be looked into.

The reply that came back from C.I. was disappointing – full of unacceptable excuses that had been made by the culprit! – it felt like I was having 'my face rubbed in it' even more!

I was asked to accept a verbal apology – and told that the call would come soon...

The call finally came!

Another disappointment – it seemed insincere and was full of excuses. (I do have the whole conversation recorded).

The one that really stuck out was the one about 'being out of his head on drugs'!

(Usually when you are intoxicated you are less inhibited and not fully in control. So, less aware of your actions and their consequences)!

I reported the matter to the committee again, saying I was not satisfied. Their reply was that the matter is now closed!

Hence I have decided to write this (so the truth be known)!

It was rather interesting (that it became apparent within the communications with committee) that this behaviour is o.k. if it's between long-term friends (within Clowns International).

So does this mean that when your Friends are on stage doing their act, it is alright (in the name of humour) to:

Distract the audience from the main act? Join in from the 'side lines'? Cut short their Act? Make derogative comments?

My Questions:

If this was you - how would you proceed from this point? What action would you expect/ feel is reasonable? Would you take things into your own hands? How would you deal with the personal effects of having been 'ridiculed' in a public place? Was I the only victim (of someone else's actions) at The Grimaldi Show? Was anyone else interfered with in any way?

Remember:

'What goes around, comes around (KARMA). 'Be Mindful of Your Actions'.\_Minor Disruptions can have a Cascading Effect. In this era we don't get second chances (ie we all have to be CRB Registered). Our actions can haunt us for the rest of our lives! We are all just trying to bring Love, Happiness and Laughter to others.

The Truth, the Whole Truth and with Laughter...

Yours,

Rico - Circus Clown Rico

## ORIGINAL LETTER TO CLOWNS INTERNATIONAL:

Dear Mr Secretary,

**Re: Grimaldi Day Shows – Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2010**

I wish to bring to your attention the 'unacceptable behaviour', which occurred yesterday. Whilst I was 'On Stage Performing' (during the 'last stages' of my act, just before the 'Grand-Finale') -'The Compere' 'Interfered with My Act'...

Not only did he 'Come on Stage and Stand in the corner, Distracting the Audience' but he proceeded to 'Place a 'Fishing Landing Net', over my head and took me off the stage'. Then to 'cap it all', he went back on stage and told the audience 'He Thought I was going to take all of my clothes off'!

To say such a thing is 'Casting Aspersions' on my good character. I was absolutely 'Shocked & Horrified', not only was this Behaviour 'Outrageous, but Demeaning' (to have 'myself & my act', 'ridiculed in public' and in front of my Clown Colleagues and Family).

Never in my long career as a 'Clown' have I been treated in such a fashion... There has always been 'A Point' in the Constitution, which makes it clear that 'No Member', should ever 'Interfere with', any 'Other Members Act' (it used to be 12 e & h in the Old Constitution and seems to have been replace by 10 in the New Constitution).

I wish you to 'Take this matter in hand & Deal with it'. Advising me of what action you will take to restore my 'Confidence' and 'Good Name' and inform my Clown Colleagues that the 'Actions of the Compere' were not in fact, 'part of my act'.

In my opinion, the only acceptable outcome is for me to receive a 'Public Apology' in writing (In "The Joey").

I look forward to hearing from you in the near future.

Yours Sincerely,

Circus Clown Rico (872)

Member since 1989

Dear Rico and all my clown colleagues of Clowns International, the world's oldest clown organisation. I, as Chairman and friend of all members, would like to rectify any misunderstandings that happened at the Grimaldi Memorial Service last February. As you can read for yourselves, Rico has given a detailed deep account of his feelings. I would like to offer my/our feelings as a club: I was actually there running the sound, and trying to keep a grip on things.

The committee and I have discussed Rico's complaint and I felt it in order that the whole item should be printed, we live in a democratic society where we should be able to portray our feelings and discuss, put right and learn from each other. This being the case I would like to share my opinion with you. When Rico handed me his CD, I was also in a panic, as my player system did not want to register or play anything. I relayed my panic to Rico and we also discussed very quickly how he wanted it cued. Rico's view was a very brave one of, "Oh well, never mind if it doesn't work, I will just walk off".

Luckily for both me and Rico, the music cued and away we went. Time was passing as I stood behind the curtain. The Compère, being Mattie, asked me how long Rico was on for. As I looked at the CD listing, I found the display time was not available, therefore I didn't know the answer. Both Mattie and I looked at each other wondering what we should/could do to know how long to leave the music on for, (as Rico quite rightly says, we should have known how long each act had. We have learnt from this). But also, we were worried in case we left Rico on the stage too long (I myself have been subject to this and it was not a nice experience). So taking the bull by the horns and trying to assist the show but still in a clown fashion, Mattie suggested that we use my net, (which is a prop I use) to possibly take Rico off stage. Ok I thought, but try and get his attention so that possibly we can all join in or ascertain how long was left. So Mattie waited at the side of the stage trying to catch Rico's attention, and, failing that, did the gag with the net. May I say, at the time it was all done in good jest and as Rico came off the stage the music only continued for another 15 seconds before it ended. As to what Mattie said on the stage, well, without trying to undermine Rico's view, as a Compère, it is sometimes very difficult to make a split decision and being human we all say things wrong at times (especially under pressure) and his mention of drugs - they were heavy antibiotics as Mattie had been suffering for several weeks with a health problem and we were lucky he was able to Compère on the day.

The Grimaldi Service relies on Clowns from C.I. to volunteer and put on a show which the public are invited to see for no charge, and without the generosity of our clown members, we could not do this. We rely on clown members just turning up and putting their names down on the day. Every year, the priority is on getting the Service organised and handling the ever-increasing press melee and as a result, the children's show afterwards perhaps tends to be treated with less urgency. With all the usual rushing around we are not always able to gather the information we ideally should have, such as how long each act is and therefore the length of the show. The running order is usually put together at the last minute, when we know who has volunteered to take part: sometimes the clown is not there as he/she is held up getting through the barrage of public as they exit the Church and try to reach the Hall.

It is always hard to show a new act, especially in front of your colleagues, but Rico was brave enough to do so and I truly regret the outcome and apologise to Rico. I have learnt a lot from this and I hope our members reading this understand both sides of the story. No malice was ever intended and I and the committee will try to see this situation doesn't happen again.

Kindest Regards

Rainbow  
Chairman of C.I.

By

**Monty (the almost famous) Wells**

First and foremost I must point out that my effort in the last Joey was a reprint of an article that I wrote back in the 90's (Maybe there were one or two fans who spotted this?) and ,though I say it myself, I think it held up to a second scrutiny. Little appears to have changed since then. So, despite the entreaties of the delectable Ms Ainslie, I never got round to writing a new 'bit' for the Spring number of The Joey. No excuses but two reasons. First, I was playing with a new toy that I got for Christmas. A computer! Oh yes, I've had a computer for the last fourteen or so years, but I only used it as a word processor, desktop publishing (When I was still working) buying or selling something on eBay, printing photos of the family and playing 'FreeCell' occasionally when I was bored, but this year Father Christmas brought me a new one and a new world has opened up! Having got my new computer, I had to get 'Broadband' and having got 'Broadband' I discovered You Tube.



Go back to my last Joey 'bit' and insert into the penultimate paragraph :-

You can now see genius at work. You Tube will show you the brilliance of Tommy Cooper. Harpo Marx. George Carl. Grock. Norman Evans. Max Wall. Watch them and (when you have finished laughing) learn. Don't try to copy them, equal them or surpass them. You never will. Such gifted beings, in their particular fields, rarely occur more than once in a lifetime. I saw all the Marx Brothers films when they were released and, apart from Grock, I saw all of the above, live, several times and each was an unforgettable experience. The 'Broken Mirror' routine will never be performed better than by the Marx Brothers in 'Duck Soup'

Watch the rubber face of Norman Evans in his 'Over The Garden Wall' sketch then marvel at his work (in drag,) with a panda glove puppet. This was some years before Harry Corbett bought 'Sooty' on a Blackpool pier for 7/6d.!!!!. Grock, trying to toss and catch his violin bow, will always be funny.

I have watched all the George Carl 'shots'. I haven't counted but there must be nearly twenty of them ranging from Circus via TV shows to the Royal Command Performance at the Palladium and you notice that he never varies his routine. Each one extremely funny but almost as repetitive as a detachment of 'squaddies' doing rifle drill. It takes some doing to keep fresh. A couple of 'grainy' home movies of George working out in the fifties and early sixties shows the dedication of the man.

The other reason for not sending in a new 'bit' was coming to terms with the loss of a mate. Patrick Page, whose name is a byword for inventive magic among magicians around the world. We first worked together over fifty years ago and were close friends ever since. We rarely discussed magic (Because I am not a conjurer or magician) unless it was involved in a comedy prop or gag. When we were together we were always laughing. We would spend hours on the phone sorting out a problem with one of his or my props. He once told me that he invented a trick (He never stopped) that involved a small box pinned inside the jacket. To try it out he used an empty cigarette packet (Wills 'Capstan Full Strength'. Yes he even told me the brand !) The trick worked great and he always intended to replace the cigarette packet. He never did and after using it, almost continuously, for the next three years or so and when the packet finally disintegrated he disposed of it and stopped doing the trick. He had invented plenty more by then!

Finally I think a pat on the back is due to Zaz for getting his money for the kids party that turned into a TV shoot. I remember young Matthew as a thirteen year old at the old Bognor Conventions and over the years he has never been anything but professional. There are some clowns, with immaculate costumes and make up who 'Do it just for fun' or are overwhelmed by the presence of a so called "celebrity" and are prepared to work for nothing or (Even worse!) 'expenses only' and, although I am against it, I am in no position to say they shouldn't, but the question of 'circus clowns not being interested in Cl' still comes up from time to time. Perhaps I have given part of the answer!

Be Lucky

## Vetting and Barring Scheme (VBS) / Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA) / Criminal Records Bureau (CRB)

Many of us will have had firsthand experience of the current system of being checked by the Criminal Records Bureau when working with children. Some will have come across the various flaws in that system such as: having difficulty getting a check done as a freelancer; having to pay for a check; have to get several checks when working in different geographical regions; uncertainty about how long a certificate is valid for; having a contract withdrawn due to something on the check, to name just some. Now that this current system is being replaced by the **Vetting and Barring Scheme** administered by the **Independent Safeguarding Authority** many will be wanting to know whether it will be any better. The view from Equity at this early stage is a qualified yes in that some, but not all, of the flaws have been ironed out but much will depend on the implementation.

So, to answer the main questions on the new system such as who, what, when, how and how much etc.

**When will it start?** The system is being introduced in two main stages and the timetable has been designed to work with the school system in mind, probably learning from the lessons of the chaotic introduction of the CRB system a few years ago. New applicants such as school employees, volunteers etc who have never had a CRB check before will be required to register first with those existing employees and those already checked coming in afterwards. Registration for the new applicants will open in July 2010 and will be mandatory from November 2010 and for those already checked registration will be phased in, in various stages, from 2011 possibly through to 2015.

**What is the Independent Safeguarding Authority Register?** The register is a live database of those checked and deemed suitable to work with children or vulnerable adults. Potential employers or those recruiting volunteers will need to check this database if the individual is going to be taking part in *Regulated Activity*. The definition of Regulated Activity is that which involves being in *Frequent* or *Intensive* contact with children or vulnerable adults (Frequent being 'once a week or more' and Intensive being 'more than 4 times a month or overnight'). These definitions apply when the individual will be seeing the same group of children or vulnerable adults. Those who regularly entertain in different schools or different groups of children in the same schools will not be required to register. A one-off booker, such as a party organiser or mother, who wants to check an entertainer will be able to do so with the entertainer's permission. When checking the registration, an employer will only know that the individual is registered or not. They will not see any details of the individual's criminal history.

**How much does it cost?** The cost of registration is £64 which includes the CRB check and this is a one-off fee. Volunteers will be able to register free. Despite Equity's lobbying, there will be no concessions for self-employed, low paid workers such as many entertainers.

**How do you register?** If you want and need to register this can be done directly with the ISA. Information on how this is done should appear in due course on the government's website detailed at the end.

Equity continues to believe that for most of work done entertaining in this field there should always be a responsible adult present when the entertainer is with the children and that that is the best protection all round. It is estimated that this new system will require 9.5 million adults to register which seems excessive and there is still the potential for schools and local authorities to have their own policies about who needs to be registered. There is therefore the potential that entertainers could be asked to register unnecessarily.

Comparing the new system with the outgoing CRB system, however, does appear to have the following advantages so should be an improvement:-

- Registration is one-off, continually up to date and portable between areas and the fee should also be a one-off
- Individuals can register directly without having to go through an Umbrella Body
- The definition of who needs to register is clearer and most entertainers will fall outside of that definition
- Employers do not see an individual's criminal history and the decision about an individual's suitability to work with children or vulnerable adults is made centrally with safeguards in place

Equity will be interested to hear experiences from members about how the system is working once it is underway as it's only then that we will actually know how it's working for us.

For more information go to the government's website [www.isa.gov.org.uk](http://www.isa.gov.org.uk)

Michael Day, Equity Live Performance Dept. [mday@equity.org.uk](mailto:mday@equity.org.uk)

April 2010



**DELIVERING THE GIFT OF HAPPINESS AND PRACTICAL HELP TO NEEDY PEOPLE IN THAILAND**



**[www.gohappiness.org](http://www.gohappiness.org)**

Thailand Registered Charitable Foundation Registration number: Kor Tor 1914. VAT: 3-0337-6259-4

**For you members who don't already know...** Clown Eckie is past PRO for Clowns International and has been a member of C.I since about 1994 including a few years of separation from C.I. while he's been travelling the world as a full time professional clown. *C.I. Membership number 1105.*

Now settled and well known around Bangkok...Entertaining children-parents and teachers at International Schools - Hotels - Parties-local TV- Galas and Charity Events in Thailand. Giving something unique to those who like good clean fun and a great laugh whenever it's needed!

#### **AND SOMETHING EXTRA!**

Since 2001 Eckie has been giving free charity shows. He's developed the 'Gift of Happiness Foundation'. Now he can devote more of his time to this important work.

Inspiration for Eckie to start giving free shows...A show for children born with HIV/Aids...*"Not much fun in their lives?"*

Big decision...for Eckie to devote more time and skills for charity work.

Realisation...While Birthday Party shows guarantee an afternoon of fun...

#### **CHARITY CLOWN SHOWS CAN CHANGE PEOPLES LIVES!**

*Children with special needs enjoying a clown show*



#### **WHY DOES A CLOWN SHOW CHANGE LIVES?**

Laughter is the best medicine for people living in difficult circumstances. Many of these children haven't had much fun in their lives!

**Fun + Laughter = Happy**

**Happy x Memories = Happy Life!**

**A CLOWN SHOW FOR CHILDREN...**

That can't be very expensive to do...You just do a show, right?

**NOT QUITE...**

Here's a look at what's involved for a typical visit to the Burmese refugee camps, Thai and migrant worker communities near Mae Sot in North Thailand.

First, in the months before a trip...Operations Director, Eddie Haworth puts the word out that he's looking for donations - clothing, toys, bedding, towels, electronic equipment, medicine - you name it, these people need it.

People respond and Eddie drives all over Bangkok to collect the donations. Over a few weeks, the collection grows, filling up the entire first floor of the Gift of Happiness Foundation Headquarters in central Bangkok.

He then sorts everything into appropriate piles - Men's and women's, children (boys and girls), etc. By this time, he's got about two or three FULL pick-up trucks worth of donated goods. He's made about six to ten individual trips to gather things together. That's a lot of time and a lot of gas money.

While all this is happening, Eddie is making the necessary contacts with NGOs, the Thai Government, community groups and others to make the arrangements for his trip. Dozens of emails and dozens of phone calls later, things are falling into place.

Those who will accompany Eddie on the trip (some who need to be paid, like drivers; some who will pay their own way to help, witness and participate) need approvals and camp passes - all of which Eddie has to arrange well in advance. At the same time, Eddie is scrambling for donated vehicles to transport all the donated items, all his show equipment and his unique Clown TukTuk up country.

Finally the day comes to make the 6 hour drive to Mae Sot - a convoy of pickups - one pulling a bright yellow TukTuk on a trailer. As the team pulls into the hotel grounds, Eddie gets in touch with and meets those who will facilitate the next day's events.



**A VERY SPECIAL CLOWN DELIVERY 'TUKTUK' and DONATED FOUNDATION VEHICLES LOADED WITH TOYS – CLOTHES – WARM BLANKETS FOR THE CHILDREN OF BLUE SKY COMMUNITY (This community lives and scavenges on the local garbage dump near Mae Sot in the cold part of Northern Thailand)**

For the next 4 or 5 days, Eddie (as Clown Eckie) will do at least two shows a day, often in quite remote locations that take a few hours to get to over rough tracks. He'll entertain several thousand children and their families, heading back to the hotel each evening to rest up for the next day's activities.

In the end, a convoy of now empty pickup trucks makes the long drive back to Bangkok - everyone thrilled by the sights, sounds, laughter and joy they have seen on the faces of children whose desperate lives have been brightened for a few hours.



**Eckie and his clown friends collect donations to hand-out at the shows**  
**David Sanderson Musician left – Gingernutt C.I. Centre - Clown Eckie C.I. right**

The clowns deliver them to Orphanages - Refugee Camps - Poor Schools - Hospitals - Street Children - Bangkok Slum Dwellers and Throughout Thailand.

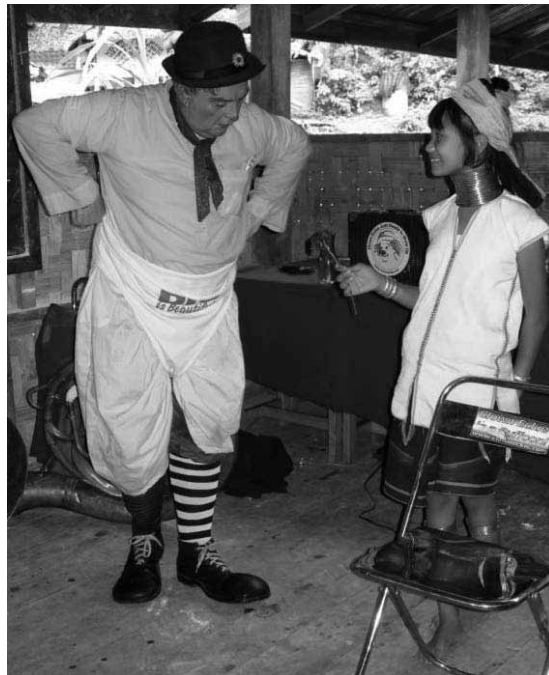
Donations of goods and money come from International school children, friends who donate through the web site and ex-pat groups in Bangkok.

The donations go straight to the poor in Bangkok - Migrant Families living along the Thai/Burma border - Children with the greatest needs - Orphans and victims of tyranny who arrived in Thailand with nothing!  
*(Remember...there's no Social Security in this country!)*

Eckie makes regular visits to remote schools in the far North of Thailand. There's no air conditioning in most of these schools and in summer the temperature can reach 40c+.

One of Eckie's targets is to raise money for generators and fans for schools like this.

These could make all the difference when the children have to concentrate on their studies.



**Eckie goes a long way to help some People**  
**Long Neck Tribe People in the far north**  
*(Where it gets very cold at night)*

The world famous hill tribe people are also in need of some fun and warm clothing.

A lot of these people are not allowed to leave camp, so really appreciate any little bit of fun and donations that

the clowns can bring in from outside!

**ARE YOU VISITING THAILAND AND LOOKING FOR A ‘UNIQUE EXPERIENCE’?** It may be increasingly more difficult to find something really “unique” on your travels, but it is not impossible. You just have to know where to look.

“**Unique**” is a word often used even though what is called “unique” rarely is.

In the travel business, finding a unique product doesn’t happen very often. If your travel agent can offer it, chances are somebody else can, too. How many times have you taken a “unique” trip only to arrive and discover a couple of tour buses with dozens of other visitors milling about? But there are a few truly unique experiences you can have over here in Thailand: You can experience a piece of the “real Thailand” by being part of or sponsoring a highly entertaining show for underprivileged children.

Clown Eckie at the Gift of Happiness Foundation, has been working in Thailand for ten years. He performs at slum schools, orphanages, hospitals and other places where children ordinarily would never get a chance to see his inane antics - or enjoy an afternoon of laughter and fun. The cheer and goodwill created is a priceless way to experience some of the “real life” that visitors tend to overlook. If you or members of Clowns International or other groups would like to get involved in or sponsor some shows - and also enjoy yourself as one of the clowns at one of these unique events -- Eckie can promise you a truly unique experience. You’ll feel good, do some good, and remember it for the rest of your life.

**CLOWN ECKIE NEEDS VOLUNTEERS ON THESE SHOW TOURS.**

**NO ONE (INCLUDING CLOWN ECKIE) GETS PAID AND VOLUNTEERS ARE EXPECTED TO COVER THEIR OWN EXPENSES.**

**WE CURRENTLY NEED:**

ACOUSTIC MUSICIANS-BRASS-WOODWIND-PERCUSSION etc (We often perform with poor or no electricity supplies - no amplifiers)

COMICAL FAMILY ENTERTAINERS (No language used in our shows...Unless you speak Thai or Sino-Tibetan family of languages)

PHOTOGRAPHERS

DRIVERS

FUND RAISERS IN THE UK

**Gail Bailey of the British Women’s Group Bangkok wrote this report on a visit with Clown Eckie to Tham Hin Refugee Camp, Ratchaburi Province. Thailand**

I love a bit of intrigue, so telling people I was going away with a clown for a couple of days brought many a raised eyebrow. However it was an eye opener for me as this was the first time I had been inside a camp to see how the Karen people live or rather exist. I was wearing two caps. British Women’s Group and St. George’s Society who have both sponsored Clown Eckie’s charity shows projects for the admirable charity work he does on a regular basis.

Eddie Haworth (a.k.a. Clown Eckie) had his Fortuner car jammed packed with his equipment and donated clothes and underwear in bags and boxes. We set off to Kanchanaburi where we stayed overnight, accompanied by a friend who had been working for an NGO in Mae Sot and who also plays the saxophone during Eckie’s shows.

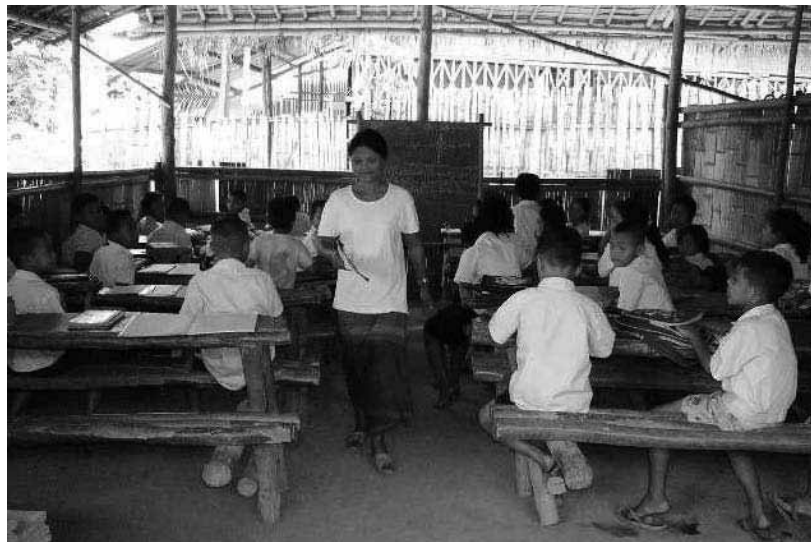
We were met early the next morning by a group of people who work for a Japanese NGO (Shanti Volunteer Association [www.sva.or.jp](http://www.sva.or.jp)) who supply newspapers and books for the camp library as there is no access to TV or phone (mobile phones do not work inside the camp) so they are quite cut off from the outside world. The surrounding scenery was quite spectacular on the 2+ hour drive to the camp which is just 12km from the Burmese border



#### WHEN DOES THE SHOW BEGIN?

I was wide eyed at all the things I was trying to take in when we entered the camp (we had sent our passports weeks before to obtain permission). The children sensed something was afoot and started to chase after us until we parked on a concrete pitch (used for football, basketball etc.) and so helped unload the car.

Whilst Eckie was setting up (I did help a bit but he obviously knew where things were placed) I looked around at the small classrooms where the children were taught the basics. Apparently they either do a morning or afternoon session and I am sure the uniforms would have to be shared but no matter, the little ones looked



lovely and clean as they wrote in their books.

#### THE SCHOOL ROOM BEFORE THE SHOWS

When Eckie was ready to start the show, I did a rough head count of about 400 children who were jostling to get near to the front but Eckie is great with them and appealed to those at the back as well as the front. The wallet that sets on fire, the chair that collapses, the balloon that he pretends not to notice getting bigger and BIGGER brought forth yells and squeals. The children were mesmerized. I have seen Eckie's act a few times over the years but the delight on the faces of the children is something to behold. To bring laughter and light into their lives means such a lot as they have an uncertain future. David's excellent interpretation on the saxophone during Eckie's act really complimented the atmosphere. After lunch and resetting the props, another show was performed in the afternoon to the delight of another group (I estimated 600) of children. This particular camp holds 8000 Karen refugees. Although not all could get to see the shows, I am sure it will be a day the children and some of their teachers will remember for a long time as they do not have the usual expectations of 'normal' children. We left many of the boxes and bags at the camp but also a large supply of underwear donated by the British Women's Group was taken to 'Children of the Forest orphanage' by the people from S.V.A. who were travelling to Sangklaburi the following day

#### ABOUT 600 CHILDREN AT THIS SECOND SHOW OF THE DAY

I had only been watching the show and observing the children which was such an arduous chore (JOKING) but I was rather warm and glistening and I think Eckie must have lost a few kilos in perspiration! After farewells and thanks had been made, we set off on the rather long journey to Bangkok but decided to stop en route for

a snack and a cold drink as Eckie declared it was 'Beer O'clock' which went down a treat! How fantastic for me to experience at first hand, the pleasure and delight of the children to the performances by Eckie who is self-employed and gives of his time (a most precious commodity) to bring a bit of light relief to the lives of so many.

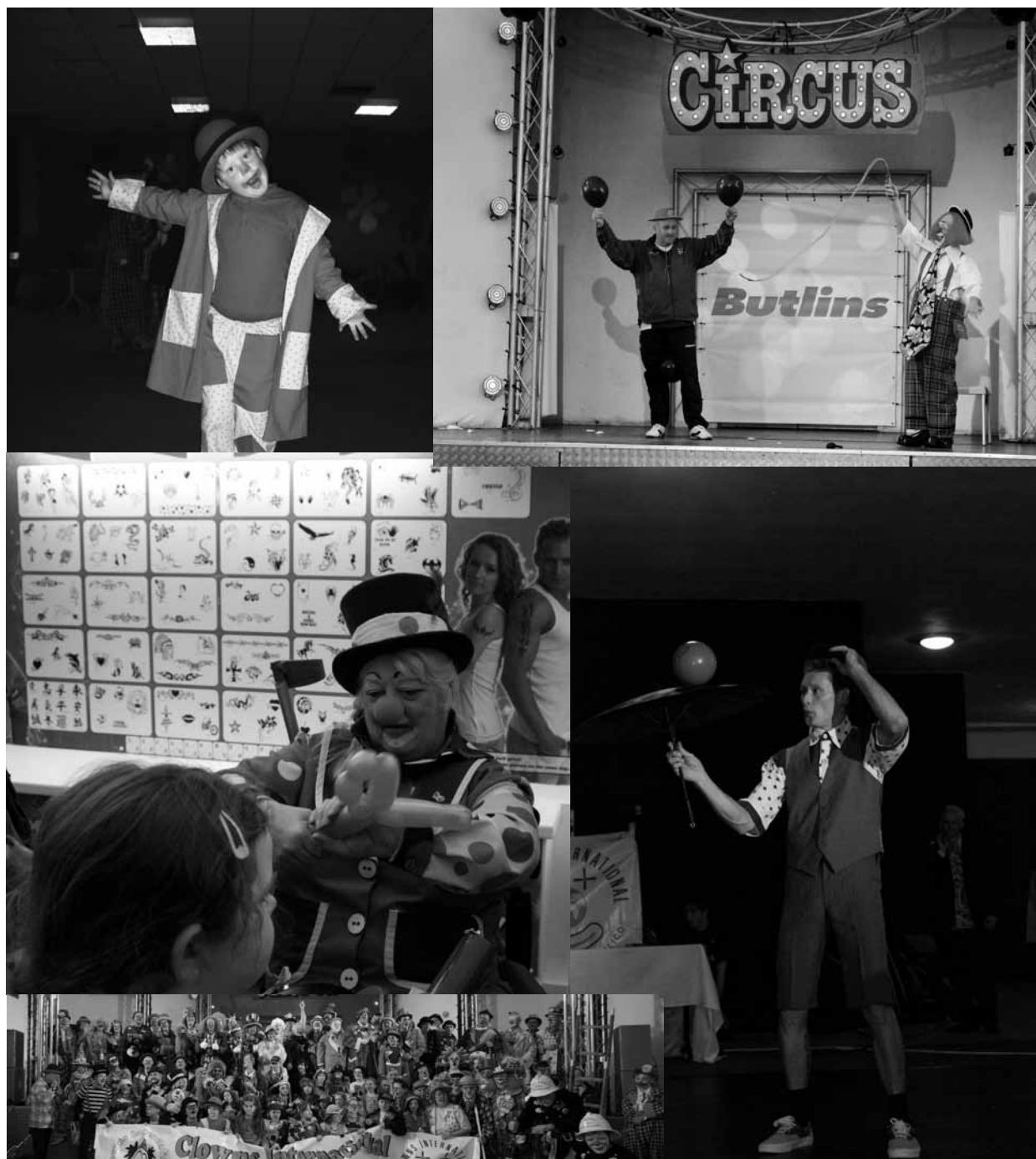
Thanks Eckie for allowing me to share more memorable moments in Thailand.  
Mrs. Gale Bailey. Bangkok.

You can contact Clown Eckie directly here: [joker@clowneckie.com](mailto:joker@clowneckie.com) <http://www.clowneckie.com> or <http://www.gohappiness.org> [eddie@gohappiness.org](mailto:eddie@gohappiness.org)

**On an American Airlines packet of nuts** -- "Instructions: Open packet, eat nuts."  
(Step 3: say what?)

**On a child's Superman costume** -- "Wearing of this garment does not enable you to fly."  
(I don't blame the company. I blame the parents for this one.)

**On a Swedish chainsaw** -- "Do not attempt to stop chain with your hands or genitals."  
(Oh my God..was there a lot of this happening somewhere?)



My favourite time of the year, daffodils shooting up anywhere you see grass, crocuses complimenting the bright yellow, with their own distinctive dark shades of blue mauve. Waking up to the sound of the cuckoo, well perhaps not, what's happened to our cuckoo?

Yes it's spring, well for a few days anyway, and then at the end of March officially it's summer. Incredible, why don't we get a decent length of spring like we used to do? Woo and I always found ourselves very busy at Easter time. For many years we had a good residency at Whipsnade Zoo, starting each year on a Good Friday and covering the four day holiday weekend with our comedy car. Woo and I organized Easter egg hunts, fun and games etc. for all the punters/families that passed through the gates of the Bedfordshire venue. We also did promotional work for a major supermarket.



We must have given hundreds of crème eggs away to delighted children. Some of the most satisfying jobs Woo and I have done during summer months have been village fetes, church fetes etc., we like the intimacy of these events. The whole village taking part in some way or other and sometimes we are asked to officially open the fete, although at times the organizer tried to get hold of a Z listed celebrity through a friend of a friend who used to work with his brother and he owes him one. This example will test your brain cells: I once did a fete, where it was being opened and I quote "by the man who shot Ernest Bishop". I can't remember his name but Coronation Street die-hard fans will remember the demise of Emily Bishop's husband after a raid on Mike Baldwin's factory in 1978, his 15 minutes of fame.

Great steam rallies are another most enjoyable means of work that Woo and I have enjoyed over the last few years. The smell of the great steam engines that have been lovingly prepared for their big day, the same care and preparation that has gone into the vintage transport and motorbikes, a fabulous day out for the whole family. Although we've seen quite a few rallies fold, there are still hundreds up and down the country, some just clinging on each year, while others are thriving. Although costs i.e. insurance etc. has risen enormously over the years, one thing Woo and I will say from our experience, some of these committee's of these rallies do need to move into the 21<sup>st</sup> century, and open their minds to change and realise that the old adage of "if it ain't broken, don't mend it", won't work for ever.

Have you noticed how many of these 99p and 'Pound' shops are shooting up all over the place? There is good choice of products and not everything is cheap (*Ed. I think £1 is cheap*) and nasty. Woo went into one of these the other day and he saw some very attractive hand fans. He thought he would buy a few of them, handy for the summer. When he got home and tried one out, it fell apart. He took it back to the shop explaining what had happened, the assistant tells Woo that having only spent £1.00 per fan, when using it you do not shake hands, you shake your head!

Woo and I have said many times that we would not want to be starting in this business today. The reason? We wouldn't know where to start. Woo had a good foundation with Bertram Mills Circus for some time, touring Butlin's Holiday Centres etc. great experiences. Myself, I was very fortunate to be part of a concert party for close on 25 years, excellent training, which I wouldn't have missed for the world. Every kind of audience young and not so young, compere, song and dance, and movement perfection, I learnt it all during those wonderful years. Then Ladbroke's Holiday Centre's, Pontins Night Clubs and social clubs etc. As Bonzo quite rightly says 'remembering those early years helps you appreciate today's memories', how right he is. Today, where do they get their training? Where now do they serve their apprenticeship? There are still the Redcoats at Butlin's, and there is Havens Holiday Centres and probably there are holiday Parks scattered around the country. It would be very encouraging if one or two of our Junior CI members made it in professional entertainment in the years to come and

follow the path Bippo has successfully undertaken.

When I look around Woo's clown room at his home in Peterborough, in some ways I envy him, positioned from ceiling to floor are photographs of past shows we have done with artists and clown friends, write up's and tittle tattle etc. It's wonderful. Woo has reviews, biops, mementoes and autographs etc. He says sometimes when he might be feeling melancholy he only has to go and sit in his room and the memories come flooding back. I have never been one to collect such memorabilia; all of mine are stored in my head. I feel a pang of envy when someone I know has kept a diary for years, it must be wonderful to look back and see what you were doing and where. Our national treasure June Whitfield, has kept meticulous scrapbooks from her 60 odd years in the public eye. A career that has spanned musicals, comedy, radio, films and TV, working with some of the biggest names in the entertainment world. At good bookshops it's all there in 'June Whitfield at a Glance', a book to treasure.

Finally can I thank the get well messages from all and sundry over my nearly made it appearance at our 'Circus Circus' Clowns Festival at Butlins. I think the anticipation and excitement of a big cuddle with Bubblz was too much for me! Couple that with an irregular heart and a severe infection which obviously got the doctor. to come to the conclusion that I would be on tablets for the rest of my life! He prescribed me four! Oh well life goes on.

Colin Walker & Bernard 'Mr Woo' Moore  
The Custard Clowns

### **How I become a clown and what I have achieved from it**

When I was at primary school (year 6) I would never have thought about doing clowning but one week we had two clowns come in to do a circus week and at the end of it the best people who they thought had learnt the most was entered into a show where parents could come and watch it. The two clowns that came in were Mr Mudge and Pippa.

During the week I was able to juggle a little bit spin two plates and ride a fun wheel and they then went and put me in the show. When the show was going on they were calling people up one by one and none of us knew when we were on so we had to wait until we heard our name. When the show was coming to the end my name still hadn't been called so I was starting to think they had forgot about me. They called my name last but they didn't just say my name they said 'here is our star of the show Ashley'. After the show they both came up to me and told me I had to join Clowns International so I did.

Now 4 years on I am still doing it and I have learnt loads more skills but now me and Tip –Top have joined up and we have started to do a few parties and fund raisers over the last two years which is good because it is more experience for in the future.

This year at Butlins I was able to win the Best Junior Award and I am just over the moon about it and it has given me loads more confidence in myself.

So thanks very much Mr Mudge and Pippa for getting me into clowning because it has completely changed my life and filled it with fun and joy.

BASHER

Today the sky is blue and the forecast says more snow!

8 days until I'm on a flight home after 15 weeks in Leipzig, 17 in Europe. Did I mention that I thought a 15 week contract would be long? I was right! 8 or 9 weeks is sensible - 15 becomes a grind. Under certain circumstances it would be different. I think the main problem with a long contract is the hamster wheel syndrome - I don't know how they do it on Broadway - 12 years in the chorus of Les Miserable? NOOOOOO!!!! Also, once the show was really set, we stopped being creative as a group. Within my own act, I continue to change little things and experiment pretty much every day, (as do the others, I'm sure) but then I have no one out



front to give me any feedback, so I'm really on my own. I guess that's really the way of the world, but it's frustrating that there isn't any creative feedback. And there was a period in the middle where I started to feel like I wasn't quite as funny any more. After the holidays, the audiences were a bit quiet - maybe they spent too much money and ate too much food. Whatever it was, it seems to have lifted and we're all (the audience and I) are having a ball together again! And today I bought coffee in a shop where they roast over 50 types of coffee and the guy working there had seen the show with his mom and I was their favourite in the show. He was marvelling at how the audience was laughing so much at the little nuances in my pieces and that with so little production, so much could be done. ;o) I needed that just about now! Don't mean to toot my own horn, but if I toot it in the woods...

There have been various little mishaps backstage, but nothing worthy of noting here. What IS worthy of telling is what happened at the gym. Now come on, WHO would expect the treadmill to be running with no one on it? Not me! So as I stepped onto the running treadmill, I was slammed to the ground so fast and so hard I didn't even have time to see my life pass before my eyes! Thankfully, it was a Monday evening and I had two days to recover. So after a trip to the Kryolan make up shop and lot's of ibuprofen, I was able to do the show. I had a lovely black eye and a painful chest that killed when I took in a deep breath (necessary in the glue sniffing moment in my Shakespeare piece) or did any twisting, which is also a necessity in physical comedy. Two weeks later I am almost fully recovered aside from some numbness in my right cheek and front teeth. And no, there was no camera in the place to record the incident. Ah... could have gone viral!

One of the things I loved most about being here has disappeared - my Diamant bike. It was locked up out in front of the building and it's gone. In it's place is another bike, unlocked, so perhaps someone was making a trade. If it's still there in a couple of days, I'll assume it's a replacement. I loved being able to ride around the different neighbourhoods and to the museums. One of my other favourite things here is the outdoor food market that happens twice a week in the market square. Fresh butter, warm smoked salmon, tiny buffalo salami with chilli, roasted chickens, sun dried tomatoes, fresh honey and eggs and pasta and fruit and vegetables and spices... it's been grand!

I taught a physical comedy workshop to 11 locals last week. 9 are hospital clowns who entertain seniors. I'll be watching them work next week. My friend Laura Fernanadez put me in touch with them - she started the hospital clown idea here in Germany when she moved here from NY after working in the Big Apple Circus with us for the first years of the program. We had a great time in the class and it was especially nice to get to know some Leipzigers a bit better. Now that I'm leaving, I have a nice community of locals I've met between the clown community, the gym, and the biz. Ain't that always the way!

So as we bring this show to a close, I'm grateful to have been here. I've learned so much about my pieces, about the kind of work I like to do, about the role of the clown both on stage and in society, about myself as a co-worker, a friend, a flat mate, an employee, a dressing room mate, an artist. AND I can speak a little German!

See you in New York!  
Love,  
Hilary



## And Now For Something Completely Different

by David Girt (Jolly Jack)

From time to time I get a few surprising offers of work! Lately I have had a number of unusual requests (some so called clown friends have kept suggesting me!)

This has led to some interesting experiences! These have included walking across an ice rink as Charlie Chaplin for I.T.V's "Dancing On Ice"; being a Pierrot Clown in a darkened room at Goldsmith's College as part of a student's Masters' Degree work and playing in full motley in a serious play about a clown dying of Aids! It has been very enriching to work with different creative people. I am pleased that I did take up their invitations! All of these experiences have reminded me how people are still fascinated with the world of Clowning!

How we should take note of people's reactions and comments and learn from them! The great Moscow State Circus Clown Popov ended his book "Russian Clown" with these words, "We must be always be creating new things." May that be true of all clowns!

### Some of our rejoined and new Clowns / Juniors / Friends

#### Rejoined Clowns

1105 Clown Eckie ( Eddie Haworth)  
 1430 Denni Dennis ( Denni Jenson)  
 495 Jolly Jack ( David Girt)  
 675 Paddy ( Paddy Faulkner)  
 V1395 Paul Balloony ( Paul Pearce)  
 1277 Pineapple ( Thelma Pickles)  
 639 Plummie  
 1435 Silly Soapy ( Sophie O'Brien)  
 1466 Silly Tilly ( Noeleen Breen)  
 1424 The Bay Lady ( Lesley Butler)  
 1033 Tricky Nicky ( Nick Clark)

#### New Clowns

1510 Alex Oddball (Alex Maxwell-Stewart)  
 1514 Clown Pinky ( Kim Smith)  
 V1509 Gadget ( David Allen)  
 1506 Gulio ( Gulommiezo Gulyamov)  
 V1512 Snoozy ( Karina Jenkins)  
 V11513 Tatters ( Jason George)  
 1511 Vita ( Lucy Maxwell-Stewart)

#### Junior Clown

##### Rejoined

J324 B.B.Bubbles (Stephen Breen)  
 J317 Cheeky Girl (Lydia O'Brien)  
 J318 Cheeky Kid ( Amelia O'Brien)  
 J319 Choppo (Christopher Austin)

#### New Junior Clowns

J341 Boots (Phoebe McAree)  
 J350 Grace Brokenshire  
 J349 Molly Brokenshire  
 J344 C.C.Small (Chloe Page)  
 J348 Dan Dan (Daniel Beadle)  
 J342 Gorjio ( Jordon Vigay)  
 J339 Husik (Husain Gulyamov)  
 J352 James Elborn  
 J351 Jenny Jingle ( Jennifer Smith)  
 J340 Juliya Gulyamova  
 J346 Lippi ( Tasha Oldfield)  
 J343 Oggy (Owen Parker)  
 J353 Silly Slider ( Levi Martin)  
 J347 Squeaky-Kate (Katie Beadle)  
 J345 Tinker Bell ( Chelsea Barret)

#### Friend of Clowns

##### Rejoined

F397 Kath & Alan Ellis

#### New Friend of Clowns

F568 Harold Mitton (Ex Clown Jam)  
 F571 Giovanna Banwell  
 F569 Richard Bosworth  
 F570 Fiona Carson  
 F573 Mrs Lorraine Lytheoe-Whyley  
 F572 Patricia Silk  
 F567 Kay Stratton



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

How often do you want the payments made

Quarterly  Yearly

First Payment Amount (if different from usual amount)

£

Date of First Payment

Usual Payment Amount

£

Usual Payment Amount in Words



UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

**3 Your Authorisation**

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

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

Your signature (s)



Date

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



# Clowns International Membership Application



Clown Name: \_\_\_\_\_ (not required for Friends)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Post / ZIP Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone No: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax No: \_\_\_\_\_

Mobile No: \_\_\_\_\_ E.mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

Web Page: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ DAY \_\_\_\_\_ MONTH \_\_\_\_\_ YEAR

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ (Junior applicants please have Parent or Guardian sign)

**\*\*ALL new UK Clown Members will only be considered for Full Clown Membership after they have attended at least one C.I. event (not applicable for Friends Section)**

Are you a NEW Clown to C.I. YES/NO? A BEGINNER Clown YES/NO?

How long have you been a clown? \_\_\_\_\_

What type of Clown are you?: (please Tick) Auguste: \_\_\_\_\_ Whiteface: \_\_\_\_\_ Hobo/Tramp: \_\_\_\_\_ Character: \_\_\_\_\_

List any skills: \_\_\_\_\_

List any Clown Schools/Conventions attended : \_\_\_\_\_

Have you obtained CRB (Criminal Records Bureau) This only applies to UK Clowns? YES / NO

If Yes: CRB registration No: \_\_\_\_\_ Date Issued: \_\_\_\_\_

**(If you do not have a CRB you have 6 months to obtain one. After that your membership will be terminated with no money refund.)**

To apply for CRB please call DDC on 0845 644 3298 stating you are a member of C.I. to obtain a specially negotiated fee.  
On obtaining your CRB please notify the Membership Secretary (contact details below)

## PLEASE TICK APPROPRIATE MEMBERSHIP BEING APPLIED FOR

New Full/Provisional Clowns (With CRB) (UK only) £48.00\*\* [ ]

New Senior Clowns (UK only & over 65 years) With CRB £31.50\*\* [ ]

All New Clown Membership outside UK £48.00\*\* [ ]

All New Friends of Clowns outside UK £38.00 [ ]

Renewal of Full/Provisional Clown Membership With CRB (UK only) £38.00 [ ]

Renewal of Senior Clowns Membership with CRB (UK only & over 65 years) £21.50 [ ]

Renewal of all New Memberships outside UK £38.00 [ ]

New & Renewal - Junior Clowns Membership (under 16 years) £ 11.50 [ ]

New & Renewal - Friends of Clowns Membership (UK only) £21.50 [ ]

**\*\*There is a joining fee of £ 1 0 within the membership fee (applicable to clowns only for clown egg registration)  
(Please send subscriptions in sterling by bankers' draft, sterling cheque or international sterling money order)**

I wish to pay my membership by Standing Order (A Standing Order Form Will Be Sent To You): \_\_\_\_\_

I wish to pay by Credit Card. Type of Card: Visa: \_\_\_\_\_ MasterCard: \_\_\_\_\_

Please add £2.00 to your fee if paying by Credit Card

Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Expiry Date: \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ Total Amount £ \_\_\_\_\_ Name on Card: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Please submit this application with a photograph of yourself in full make-up, (not required for Friends Membership) together with cheque or postal order payable to CLOWNS INTERNATIONAL, or complete your credit card details.

**TO: DAVID 'CONK' VAUGHAN, The Membership Secretary, Clowns International, 193 Shard End Crescent, Shard End, Birmingham, B34 7RE, England** CHECK LIST: Have you enclosed: Subscription Fees! Photograph! (Not required for Friends)

-- NON PROFIT -- NON POLITICAL -- NON SEXIST -- NON SECTARIAN --

Members of Clowns International agree to abide by the rules of Clowns International. Those facts are taken as constituting deemed consent to your membership details being held by C.I. for the purposes of the Data Protection Act 1984.

Membership fees are correct at the time of printing and are subject to change .

**Clowns International Events**

**August 5th-9th 2010** Praia da Vitoria, Terceira, Azores. Clown Festival within the Praia da Vitoria Summer Festival. Information was sent out by email, post and phone - there are a few places left, last chance to register – see page 20

**September 18th & 19th, 2010** Summer Social and Carnival, Raunds, Northants. Fun weekend in and out of clown.

18th SOCIAL DAY in motley and slap if willing.

19th WORKSHOP DAY “SLAPSTICK” (casual dress). Training and discussions - details to follow on website and Club’s Facebook page

**December 14th-16th, 2010** “Frankie’s Festiclown Show” for Les Enfants de Frankie Charity, Monte Carlo [Performance day 15th only]. Contact Chris Stone 01202 301602 if interested in filling any late cancellations

**December 2010** (casual dress), C.I. JUNIOR XMAS PARTY.

Raunds, Northants. Celebrate Christmas with our wonderful juniors. Date to be confirmed. Contact Pippa on 07940301865

**February 6<sup>th</sup> 2011** (in Motley). ANNUAL EVENT

Annual Grimaldi Memorial Service, Holy Trinity Church, Beechwood Road, Dalston, London. Participants arrive at 12.00pm noon, lunch (12.00pm-2.00pm) is provided. Service takes place at 3.00 p.m., followed by the traditional cutting of a Clown Cake and a Clown Show for the local children (clown show tbc).

**March 2nd-7th** (tbc) 2011

“Circus Circus” International Clown Festival (unconfirmed) at Butlin’s, Bognor Regis, West Sussex. Our annual festival will once again include workshops and lectures for clowns, so book these dates in your diary.

**Popular Annual non-C.I. Events**

**July 2010** (in Motley) The Amazing Great Children’s Party

Children with Leukemia, Battersea Park, London.

To attend contact: 020 7404 0808; info@leukaemia.org, www.leukaemia.org

**January 1<sup>st</sup> 2011** (in Motley) New Year’s Day parade.

Contact David “Conk” Vaughan on for details about how to attend.

Do you have an event that would be of interest  
and clown related.

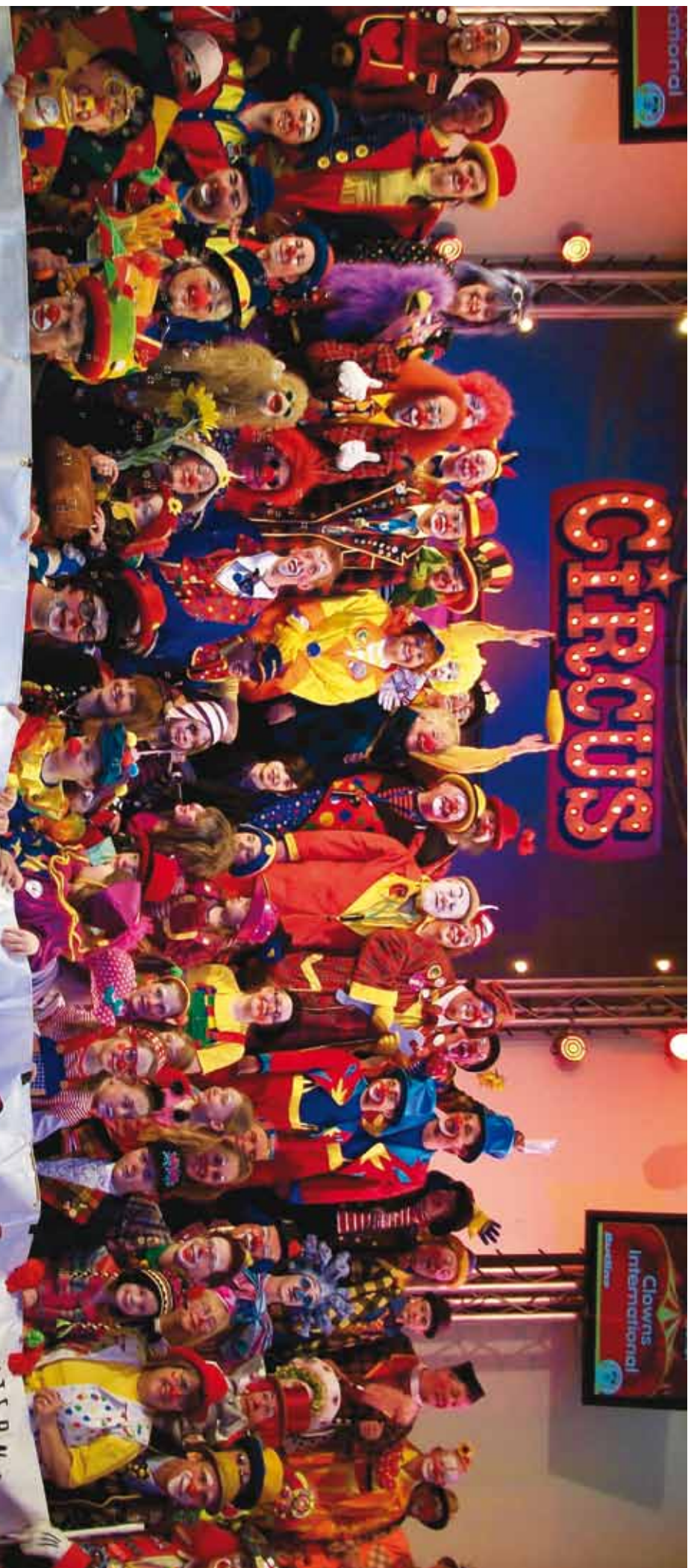
Let Bubblz know  
or email

editor@clowns-international.com

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p><b>Chairperson</b><br/>Gordon 'Rainbow' Sharpe<br/>Tel: 07977412328<br/>Email: chairman@clowns-international.com</p> <p><b>Special Responsibilities</b><br/>Festival and Social Events</p> <p><b>Sub Committee</b><br/>Bluey 'Clown Bluey' Brattle<br/>Tel: 07889600620<br/>Chris Stone<br/>Tel: 01202 301602</p> | <p><b>Vice Chairperson</b><br/>Ian 'Gingernutt' Thom<br/>Tel: 02083104376<br/>Email: vicechairman@clowns-international.com</p> <p><b>Special Responsibilities - Liaison Officer</b><br/><b>The Clowns' Gallery Ltd</b><br/>Bluey 'Clown Bluey' Brattle (chairperson)</p> <p><b>The Clowns' Benevolent Fund Ltd –</b><br/>Chris 'L.O.' Stone (Company Secretary)</p> |
| <p><b>Secretary</b><br/>Antony 'Bluebottle' Eldridge<br/>Tel: 0845 269 2917<br/>Email: secretary@clowns-international.com</p> <p><b>Special Responsibilities</b><br/>Public Relations Officer</p> <p><b>Sub Committee</b><br/>Mathew 'Mattie' Faint<br/>Tel: 02076080312</p>                                         | <p><b>Membership Secretary</b><br/>David 'Conk' Vaughan<br/>Tel: 0845 269 3648<br/>Email: membershipsecretary@clowns-international.com</p> <p><b>Special Responsibilities</b><br/>Website Administrator</p> <p><b>Sub Committee</b><br/>Stephen 'Stevie D' Davies<br/>Tel: 0151 678 2994</p>                                                                        |
| <p><b>Treasurer</b><br/>Chris Stone<br/>Tel: 01202 301602<br/>Email: treasurer@clowns-international.com</p> <p><b>Special Responsibilities</b><br/>Commercial</p>                                                                                                                                                    | <p><b>Co-opted with Special Responsibilities</b><br/><b>Joey Co-ordinator/Editor/Webmaster</b><br/>Stephen 'Stevie D' Davies<br/>Tel: 0151 678 2994<br/>Email: joeycoordinator@clowns-international.com<br/>editor@clowns-international.com<br/>webmaster@clowns-international.com</p> <p><b>Sub Committee</b></p>                                                  |
| <p><b>Benevolent Officer</b><br/>Roly 'Roly' Bain<br/>Tel: 01454616593<br/>Email: roly@rolybain.co.uk</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                            | <p><b>Clowns Museum and Archive Manager</b><br/>Mathew 'Mattie' Faint<br/>Tel: 02076080312</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |

## JOEY ARTICLE DEADLINES

|                             |             |
|-----------------------------|-------------|
| Spring Issue (posted March) | 1st January |
| Summer Issue (posted June)  | 1st April   |
| Autumn Issue (posted Sept)  | 1st July    |
| Winter Issue (posted Dec)   | 1st October |



CIRCUS



**Clowns International**  
Celebrating  
60 Years of Clowns  
1947 - 2007

