

Milton Musical Society

AUGUST Newsletter



Volume 4, Issue 4

AUGUST 2011

EDITORIAL

A bumper 6 page edition this time. Not surprising with all that is going on. Now with two shows in production, you will need to read this carefully and transfer dates to your diary.

With all the problems with which we have been coping, don't lose sight of the bigger picture. Scarlet was an excellent production of which we can all be truly proud. No other group in the area could have done it so well.

We are a fantastic group. We are friendly and inclusive. It is worth fighting for—and that is what you need to be doing NOW.

John Teather



Wednesday 23rd - Saturday 26th November at St Marks, Highcliffe

The auditions proved what a great company you are; we had a good number of pleasant surprises, not only for the panel, but the members of the company who came to watch, I hope some of you will not be too disappointed, but you will have lots to do.

Due to the change of venue I have had to alter a good few things to fit the stage but it's ok and you will all be joining in on many songs and sketches.

We could do with a few more men, but we have enough ladies who put their names down at the presentation and dancers which unfortunately we have had to keep the numbers down due to the size of the stage.

I look forward to seeing you all at the 1st rehearsal on the 20th July at Barton.

I am sure you will all enjoy what we are going to be doing. I have listed below the current casting - but I am sure it may change as the show develops.

Margaret Coltman, Director

*Can can (dancers) Sue Verren/Nicole Dupoy/
Frankie Mansfield/Heather Davis*

I'LL MAKE A MAN OF YOU (Solo Marie & Dancers as above movement)

TIME TO SAY GOODBYE (Christine Skidmore & Michael Pickford)

SISTER SUSIE'S SEWING SHIRTS FOR SOLDIERS (Pauline/Carole/Madga/Margaret PLUS LADIES

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VIEW FROM THE CHAIR

Well by now, you will be aware of the "Cabinet" reshuffle, either by your attendance at the EGM, or by reading your information pack, which you should have received in the post. Just to confirm, you have got me back in the Chair, until the AGM in November; Nick has moved into the Vice-Chair, with special responsibility for budgeting and Jonathan has moved back to the job he enjoyed, and excelled at – External Communications – or Marketing and Publicity to you and me.

There is no doubt that this is one of the most challenging times in recent Milton history. Community Theatre always seems to live on the edge, financially, no matter, what group you belong to and our current situation, really highlights how important it is to sell tickets, and sell them early. It won't be much comfort for you to know that we are not the

only group in this situation, but we aren't!

But at the end of the day the finances of the group rely on ticket sales or on fund-raising and I am afraid that over the last year both have been lacking.

The Committee has taken immediate steps with future shows, to help ensure our future. Moving "Oh Wot A Lov'ly Parade" to St Marks, with the tried and tested cabaret style audience, has not only saved us a bundle of cash but has really given us an opportunity to do some great ticket sales. This show is ideal for the demographic of our area and the time of year should make this one of the easiest sales you have had!!!

The decision also to move "Ragtime" to 2013, and replace it with a more commercial show is also the right one for the

group at this time.

Yes "Oliver" is one of those shows that seems "to be done to death", but the reason for this is **BECAUSE IT SELLS!** We will not be the only group in this area to resort to this show to boost our finances. It worked for them it can work for us.

But that is the future.....

The need to raise immediate funds to be able to meet our existing obligations is **URGENT**. Without this the group will cease to function.

So please, renew your subs early and if you can, make the company a loan. If you are not in a position to help financially, then please think of other ways in

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THERE'S A LONG LONG TRAIL Solo Peter Hall plus men & Duo Dance Sue Verren/Heather)

IN THE BLEAK MID WINTER (Solo Les/Roger/Roy & Men Dance Marlene)

OH! IT'S A LOVELY WAR (Solo Peter/Les/Mike & MEN)

ROSES OF PICARDY Solo Christine Skidmore Dancers Zarene/Marlene/Heather/Frankie/Sue Verren Ladies off stage

BRING HIM HOME Solo Roy Gaynor (family group Oliver/Anne/Viktonia/Lucy)

MADEMOISELLE FROM ARMENTIERES Solo Peter/Roger/Les/Mike & MEN

IN THE MOOD Jitterbug Sue Verren/Heather/Zarene/Marie/Jo & Frankie Mansfield.

LOOK FOR THE SILVER LINING. Solo Jill Nuthall

THE DAY WAR BROKE OUT. (MONOLOGUE) Nick Squires

WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE KIDDING MR HITLER company & dancers 2nd c

Dancers Marlene/Marie/Heather/Janet/Jo& Frankie Mansfield

GET CRACKIN Les/Roger & Men 2 C

NIGHTINGALE SANG. Solo Marie plus dance Sue Verren

CARELESS TALK Jo Mansfield & Michele M White

White Cliffs of Dover Solo Joanna Welsh & company

CANDY MAN Duo Evie Shinner & Lucy Du-

poy

Plus Dancers Sue Verren/Marie/Janet/Heather/Frankie

WE'LL MEET AGAIN Solo Christine Eastwood

GRAND OLD GIRLS OF BRITAIN solo Barbara Evans

RED SAILS IN THE SUNSET solo Maggie Soares

BOX GAG. (SKETCH Les/nick/Jordan)

KNEES UP MOTHER BROWN. Sally & Magda company

RULE BRITANIA Solo Joanna Welch

THERE'LL ALWAYS BE AN ENGLAND Solo Mike & Company

OWALP PRODUCER

At this stage most of you will only want to know what you are doing and when the rehearsals start.

Margaret has all this elsewhere in this newsletter. From the Producers point of view there are several wants and needs that you can help me with.

Firstly we require a **Stage Manager**; ---- Volunteers please. This is to ensure that those events on stage are allowed to run smoothly and that props and people are in the right places in the right times!!.

Next, we have a massive catering project to co-ordinate as we are serving food at every performance to around 80 people each time. This will require a

good team in the kitchens to get food heated and prepared so that in the interval the cast can deliver it to the tables in double quick time. A well thought out team of 4 should do it. Suggestions for assistance please.

Front of house will also need people to arrange tables and escort our audience to their tables, check tickets and sell Raffle tickets and programmes. Marlene will be looking for Volunteers here.

Now, the biggee..... **Costume/Wardrobe Mistress**. Some of the military costumes will be from a hire agency, but a lot of people will be asked to source their own stuff, particularly the WW2 and more recent items in the show. Serious charity shop work here!!!

I would like a willing person to manage this important section of the production.

Margaret Coltman requires several important Props for the stage and these

will need some carpentry and painting. I know we've done this before so if you helped or know someone in your family who can assist, please let me know. If you have a large piece of sheet timber boarding that we can paint a London Underground sign on, that is a must, as is an old stand microphone, or mock up, as used by the BBC in the 1940s. Lastly we would like to make up an A Frame sign to stand on the roadside to announce the show. I will be printing off posters as we go along.

Flyers for the show will be available by the first rehearsals and a scheme for every member of the cast to sell a table of 8, with priority before the box office opens to the public. Start thinking who you'd like to invite to see the show and put them all together on one table and you could win them a bottle of wine!!!

Jon Shiner

VIEW FROM THE CHAIR-CONT.

(Continued from page 1)

which you can give of your time to help fundraise. It is fantastic for the Society

that Vicky has come back onto the Committee to head up fundraising, so let's use her.

This is not a case of Your Country Needs You.... but **YOUR COMPANY NEEDS YOU!**

Michele Moulin-White

OLIVER!



Following the decision at the EGM to move 'Ragtime' to 2013 and do a popular and known show next year - it was agreed that I should direct OLIVER!

It not only marks, but also celebrates the 200th anniversary of the birth of Charles Dickens, with this musical adaptation that never ceases to delight audiences. From tears to laughter this tale charts the progress of a young 'orphan' through the dark streets of London during a period of our history that today is hard to believe could happen.

Bart's music with Dickens' greatest story.

Director - John Teather
MD - Lee Marchant
Choreography - Joanne Mansfield
Producer - TBA

This will be the 4th time that I have directed OLIVER! So one may well ask what is the attraction? I am always drawn to musicals with a very strong and dramatic plot. They don't get more so than this show!

An orphan starved and overworked in a workhouse, sold to an undertaker, runs away and is recruited into the organised underworld of crime. Befriended by a beautiful girlfriend of a brutal thug. He escapes and is taken in by a rich man only to witness the ugly death of his new friend as she tries to keep the secret of his whereabouts from her thug boyfriend.

I like to make the show true to its roots - so the dark bits are dark. But, then there are some glorious moments of wonder and delight as Oliver discovers bustling and exciting streets of London. The chorus parts in the show are challenging and demanding in such numbers as 'Consider Yourself' and 'Who Will Buy'.

Each time, with a different cast, a different set, and a different venue, I find it refreshing and stimulating. Like meeting an old friend after a long time. I can't wait to get going!

With the change of production, there have been some changes to the dates for the auditions. The presentation evening remains the same on **Wednesday 7th September** at 7.30pm at Barton. It will be a chance to see some video, sing a song or two, and let me explain how the show will work.

The auditions will be as follows:

Sunday 11th September 10.00am - 4.00pm at Sopley - **ADULTS**

Sunday 25th September 10.00am - 4.00pm at Sopley - **CHILDREN**

Sunday 2nd October 2.00pm - 4.00pm at Sopley **ADDITIONAL AUDITIONS (if required)**

We will be advertising the auditions for children in the local paper nearer the time. I do not intend to run two troops of children as often is done these days, as I fear it offers the audience a variable performance based on the time they see it.

There will be more details of the casting in the next Newsletter, but in the meantime here is a list of characters.

OLIVER TWIST...A workhouse boy

FAGIN...An elderly receiver

DODGER...Fagin's brightest pupil

BILL SIKES...A villain in his prime

NANCY...Graduate of Fagin's academy; Bill's doxy

BET...Nancy's protégé

CHARLEY BATES...One of Fagin's gang

MR BUMBLE...The Beadle

WIDOW CORNEY...The Workhouse Mistress

MR BROWNLOW...A wealthy gentleman

MR SOWERBERY...An undertaker

MRS SOWERBERY...His wife

CHARLOTTE...Their slutish daughter

NOAH CLAYPOLE...The undertaker's apprentice

DR GRIMWIG...A doctor

MRS BEDWIN...Mr Brownlow's housekeeper

OLD SALLY...A pauper

ANNIE...Workhouse inmate

Rose Seller, Strawberry Seller, Milkmaid, Knife Grinder, Old Lady, Night watchman

Workhouse boys; Workhouse assistants; Bow Street Runners; Street vendors; Londoners etc.

The show dates remain the same 16th - 19th May 2012. I am still working on the rehearsal schedule, and will let you know the pattern shortly. Certainly with children in the cast the Sunday rehearsals will become very important. Also Sundays will be Lee Marchant's particular day.

We will be using a typed script rather than the rented libs. You can download it from this link:

<https://files.me.com/johntheater/3yqhx3>

If your printer is not up to it - we will be offering pre-printed ones for sale at the Presentation Evening.

Front of House

The 'job' of FOH involves many tasks, not just selling programmes, raffle tickets etc., during our shows. A big thank you to all members who regularly donate prizes, as this is one of the activities which raises much needed cash.

During rehearsals, a raffle ticket is included in the rehearsal fee, and

wine or a box of chocolates is usually the prize, however, because of 'present circumstances' the prize will consist of 'raffle donations' for the foreseeable future. If members wish to bring wine, chocolates, or any item suitable for a raffle, please do!

Tea, coffee and squash will still be served (help required), but no biscuits. The good news is Sally's cakes will be available to purchase!

Whilst on the subject of tea/coffee/squash, if any member would like to bring along any of these items or sugar, biscuits, cakes, etc, please feel free to do so.

Marlene



Fundraising Forum

So for those of you who attended the EGM, the following won't be a surprise, for those of you who didn't, get ready for the excitement. We have discussed the need to raise funds for putting on the essential quality shows we have been producing recently, so this isn't "new news". The reality is that in order to exist, we need to open our eyes and our pockets and start working to build up a reservoir of readies.

So my job as the newly appointed Fundraising Committee Member is to co-ordinate our efforts, create some workable ideas and collaborate with my fellow committee colleagues and **YOU**, to see them to fruition. I am very happy to announce that Michelle Phillips will be working with me to focus on other ways to raise funds for us too.

At the EGM, I presented the "**Just One**" campaign based on the target each of us needs to raise. We have always aimed to sell at least 10 tickets each per show and due to lack of ticket sales at our last production, we have to plug the hole. So each of us could aim for "**Just One hundred pounds**". Broken down that could be tickets sales, (10), introducing friends to the society (5), or other fundraising ideas. Sally Crumpler has agreed to provide cakes at rehearsals and so you can help Sally raise her £100 by

buying and eating them. Julie Manion has agreed to manage a jumble sale and many other members have agreed to help, although more volunteers will be required. ("Just One day!"). I look forward to telling you of the other offers of events in forthcoming newsletters, but until then, members have already started our "**Just One**" campaign which is simple to start on your own at home. Simply buy a tube of Smarties, eat them and then use the tube as a collection tin for twenty pence pieces. Every time you empty your pockets/purse, put all 20p pieces in the tube. When it's full, bring it to rehearsal and I will give you another tube. So you can start straight away, and below are some of the ideas that are already in preparation for your consideration in the near future:

Milton MS Money Mile - generating community support asking for donations to make up a mile of money. Everyone is required for this!

Weight loss challenge - join the group of us that want to reduce our inches, weekly weigh ins for a small fee. The person who loses the biggest percentage body weight wins half the money raised.

Rehearsal Change Jar - Lower the weight of your pocket or purse by dumping your change in the bottle

which will be at the desk when you sign in for rehearsal.

100 Club - See Les' notice in this newsletter for more details, its like the lottery, but the odds are better!

Recyclables—we will be collecting the following:

Printer cartridges - Hand in at any rehearsal/social event

Unwanted mobile phones - Hand in at any rehearsal/social event

Unwanted textiles - To be collected in line with the jumble sale

I have had a few enquiries for entertainment opportunities for us also, and would be interested in anyone who would like to perform at such an event.

Decide how you will be involved and let me know so we can ensure every one in our society gets a chance to make a difference. Remember, it takes "Just one" thing to make a difference. If you have any ideas, let us know. We are committed to a series of simple and fun ways of fundraising and look forward to working with everyone. Telephone Vicky on 07510 274113.

Vicky Wharton

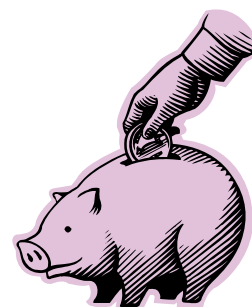
100 Club

The idea of this type of fundraising club, is to raise the most possible funds, with the smallest amount of money, this is how it works.

One hundred subscribers pay £5.00 per month by standing order, making a total of £500.00 per month, you will be allocated a number and this is your number for as long as you are in the scheme.

A monthly draw of the allocated numbers takes place giving half the monthly money away in prizes ie 1st prize **£125.00**, 2nd prize **£75.00** 3rd prize **£ 50.00**,

This is a new scheme and we hope you will join and also encourage family and friends to take part. You will be given a form in July or August to start the monthly £5.00 payments on the 1st September and the draws will take place at the end of September onwards



This should be a lot of fun for the price of a packet of cigarettes a month!

Les del-Nevo

Social Report

Hello everyone, I'm writing this prior to the barn dance, but would like to thank everyone for the support and attendance and hope we all had a great time.

As you are all aware by now Vicky Wharton is back on the committee and has some very exciting ideas for fundraising in the future so I'm really looking forward to working along side her and divulging future plans with you all in the non too distant future, but as always we will count on your support, so would really appreciate you all partaking in as many social events as possible.

Please remember to let me know as soon as possible if you plan to attend any of the following,

Forthcoming events.....

**Saturday 23rd July 6pm - 11pm
The Mansfield's Summer BBQ and Karaoke**

£5 per person, and bring your own drink.

9 Boreham Road,
Southbourne
BH6 5BW

Friends and Family are welcome to join in the fun,

Please confirm for catering purposes by July 20th .

**Sunday 7th August 12pm onwards
Annual Croquet Event**

£5 per adult £3 per child, please bring - your choice of drink crockery and cutlery and something to sit on.

Venue; Michele Moulin-Whites,
The Old Vicarage, Sopley.

Please confirm by August 2nd so you can be catered for.

**Saturday 3rd September
Les del Nevo's Quiz and fish 'n chip night**



£7.50 per person

St Marks Hall, Highcliffe

Friends and family welcome

Please confirm by September 1st

Ragtime...A professional production

This production is running at the Landor Theatre, a small venue in Clapham SW London

We have provisionally booked 30 tickets to see the matinee performance which starts at 3pm on Saturday 1st October, and have organised this so that the people who would like to be in our production and indeed those that will be helping will get a feel for the show.

We have provisionally booked a coach, which will cost. £21.00 return

Cost of show ticket £18.00 each

Total cost per person is £39.00 each.

We thought it would be nice to have a pub type meal before we return. This offer will be on a first come first serve basis.

**Saturday 22nd October
7:00pm - 11pm Annual Dinner
Dance and Awards Ceremony**

£16 per person

Dress code
Black tie

St Marks Hall ,
Highcliffe

Please confirm by October 18th

I will be available at all rehearsals for Oh! Wot A Lov'ly Parade and Crescendi to take names and pre-payment for all of the above and look forward to spending some great times with you all.

Best wishes

Tracey x



FINANCIAL MATTERS

just want to say thank you to those of you who attended the meeting on the 29th, and thank you to those of you who have already taken part in the loan scheme and paid your membership early. There is still time to pay your membership at the reduced rate (£25 rather than £30), you have until the

15th of July. Please make arrangements for this as soon as possible, we still have outstanding debts to clear and we need your help to do this.

We still have a long way to go but I feel confident moving forward that we can do this and we will be a stronger society when we have achieved our target. Please can you arrange to pay your

membership as soon as possible, and for those of you who want to participate in the loan scheme please make the arrangements for payment as soon as possible.

Thank you all again for your support, see you all soon!!

Emily Manion

The Committee

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

* New since last
 Newsletter

JULY	*Wednesday 20th at 7.00pm Barton	OWALP 1st Rehearsal
	Saturday 23rd at 7.30pm 9 Boreham Road, Southbourne	Mansfield's Summer BBQ
AUGUST	Sunday 7th at midday	Croquet on the Lawn at the Old Vicarage, Sopley
SEPTEMBER	*Saturday 3rd September St Marks, Highcliffe	*Quiz Night
	Wednesday 7th at 7.30pm BARTON	*OLIVER! Introductory Evening
	*Sunday 11th at 10.00am Sopley Village Hall	*OLIVER! Adult Auditions
	*Sunday 25th at 10.00am Sopley Village Hall	*OLIVER! Kids Auditions
OCTOBER	*Saturday 1st at Clapham	Ragtime
	*Sunday 2nd at 2.00pm Sopley Village Hall	*OLIVER! additional Auditions (if required)
	Saturday 22nd at 7.00pm St Marks, Highcliffe	Annual Dinner Dance and Awards Ceremony
NOVEMBER	Wednesday 23rd - Saturday 26th St Mark's Highcliffe	'Oh! Wot a Lov'ly Parade'
DECEMBER	Wednesday 1st at 7.30pm	OLIVER! First Rehearsal
MAY 2012	16th - 19th Regent Centre	OLIVER!
NOVEMBER 2012	Venue TBC	The Top of the Pops Years
MAY 2013	Regent Centre	*RAGTIME