

Milton Musical Society

February Newsletter



Volume 2, Issue 3

FEBRUARY 2010

EDITORIAL

I am sorry that those members who do not have access to email have not always been receiving this Newsletter. The Chairman is addressing this issue - please see her report.

Come February, rehearsals for TITANIC really ramp up with the addition of Sunday rehearsals. Rehearsing three times a week is a big challenge to us all. But keep your eye on the goal - and that is doing justice to the material and honouring all those who perished.

Over and above the rehearsals the production team are beavering away under Michele's direction.

The good news is that I am still enjoying directing the show. We really have assembled an excellent cast who promise to make this a really memorable production.

We still need people who can give their time behind the scenes with FOH etc. Please contact Michele if you can help - if not, just sell tickets for all you are worth!

John Teather



April 13th - 17th

Hello everyone and a happy New Year to you all. Yes it is 2010 and 98 years since the Titanic sank, which means we have LESS than FOUR MONTHS to show time!!

Doesn't sound much when you say it quickly - **less than four months** - no, doesn't sound any more second time around.

As a result there is an **EXTRA REHEARSAL on Sunday 31st January. 2 -6pm at Sopley Parish Hall.** Put on extra woolies, Sopley is not known for its sophisticated heating. I know that this is a late addition to the rehearsal schedule but it is a compulsory rehearsal and unless you have special dispensation from JT, then you are expected there. Details of the afternoon will follow.

Moving on Sunday rehearsals as per the schedule start on 7th February and are **every** Sunday thereafter at St Marks (2pm-6pm) with the exception of 14th, 28th Feb and 4 April which will be at Barton. Again - 3 line whip folks. (And yes, I know the 4th April is Easter Sunday but it is also 1 week before the show.....)

Just some more "house-keeping" bits. Thanks to those who have offered back stage/get in help, we will get back to you closer to the time. Also thanks to those who have bought in costumes and props for me to see. I had no idea that so many original clothes were still around and it is great that you are able to offer them. Final say of what goes in and what does not, will lie

with Anne Ponting. As she is supplying the bulk of the costumes then anything we provide must be in keeping.

Finally, with my Producer's hat on - **PLEASE** make sure you come to ALL rehearsals that you are called for. The music is really challenging and if YOU are missing it means that there are bits, which can't be rehearsed properly and that is not fair to the rest of the company.

Be under no illusions, the eyes of Christchurch and beyond are on Milton for this show. **Some people don't think we can pull it offlet's make sure we prove them wrong.**

Happy rehearsing.

Michele (Producer)

The Box Office for the show is at the Regent Centre. You can either go online at www.regentcentre.co.uk or ring 01202 499199

VIEW FROM THE CHAIR

I cannot believe I am sat typing yet another report-time is flying by and so much has been happening both in and out of Milton Musical Society-I am sure you feel the same-where did the New Year go. So far 2010 has sent us some extremely interesting times and lots of excitement. Firstly, the snow and ice, and the cold. It was very cold at rehearsal one Friday, I thought JT had organised it so we could really live the Titanic experience. It was a shame to have to postpone one rehearsal and I know the production team are keen to catch up for all of you who would have been called for that.

Secondly, we have heard that Bath Travel has sponsored the show as headline sponsors as you will have seen from the reworked posters. Whilst the sponsorship offers a cushion, it remains imperative that we keep talking about the show to everyone we meet and ask them to get tickets fast. I would like to congratulate everyone who has already bought/sold tickets, I was impressed to hear that Peter Parslow had sold 28 tickets to one of his friends who is going to organise a trip for his church. Well done Peter. If you haven't sold any tickets yet, make a list of people who would enjoy the experience or at

least want to support you on stage, then get your finger out and start phoning round. Remember the more you speak about it the more chance you have to sell tickets.

The committee has been busy looking at ways to help continue improve the way we do things. One of these is looking at our accounting practices and how we report the relevant figures and calculate how a show has done. The Committee has approved an online bookkeeping system which allows our Treasurer to post accounts to show the latest totals, cost and

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profits by show. This will help us decide as a management team, how to use our front of house resource to make the best returns and boost coffers. It allows us to keep a keen eye on rising costs and budgeting for each show too. Whilst we had some of this data in the past, the new package allows us to have the information more quickly and does a lot of the calculations for us too, saving our Treasurer time (although at present Jo is spending a lot of time getting to know the system and uploading our current information).

I am very aware for the non-electronic members, there has been an error in getting information to you again. The

committee has a process in place that will mean newsletters will be brought to rehearsal or posted. If any member feels unsure if they have received information, there are several things you can do:

1. Phone another member or one of the committee for an update
2. Go online to the website-even if you do not have a computer, the library offers free access to the web, and the librarians are very happy to help navigate to where you need to go. Web address is on the back of this newsletter.
3. Listen to "parish notes" given at rehearsals. Even if we haven't finalised dates, we often give a "heads up" so

you are aware something might be happening.

I appreciate the patience of those who have received January's newsletter late, please accept my sincere apologies.

We are now full steam ahead with Titanic, please note the rehearsal schedule is going to get very busy, but deservedly so to do this show upmost justice. Please also continue to support our social events, see the social section for information.

Thank you for your continued hard work and look forward to seeing you on the ship!

Regards

Vicky Clark

"A NIGHT TO REMEMBER"

SATURDAY JANUARY 30TH - ST MARK'S HALL HIGHCLIFFE

Not just a date for your diary; A "must be there", unforgettable, once in a lifetime EXPERIENCE.

This should be essential background detail for ALL cast members. The Evening starts with a dramatic and factual lecture by Captain Mark Thomson, a Real Merchant Navy Master Mariner, who is also a great amateur Historian. He has prepared an intriguing talk about the TITANIC, from building to sinking. Facts that will astound!!!

A Fish and Chip/Sausage and Chips Supper will follow; Orders in advance please; There will also be a BAR!!

The evening then becomes a trip down cinema memory lane, with a screening of the most factual, but dramatic film of the Titanic's fateful Maiden Voyage. "A NIGHT TO REMEMBER". Starring the Late, Great Kenneth More. This will certainly put all of us in the right frame of mind for the production we have embarked upon.

Friends and Family will also be VERY welcome as this is bound to fascinate all age groups. All seats are First Class, Gangway up at 1930hrs. (7.30pm for landlubbers) Tickets are £7.50 (7 Guineas to those who have them). Available at all rehearsals or 01202 517117 / 07510 274113

Jonathan Shiner

HITCHHIKERS GUIDE TO THE *Musical* GALAXY

I am delighted to announce that the lovely Alastair Hume has agreed to be our Musical Director (and most probably our one man band once more!) for the show. It's great to have him on board.

I am also pleased to say that I have had an initial contact with someone who is keen to help with the choreography for the show, who I think will be popular with our younger, more energetic members! All will be revealed when the deal is done!

To be held at Brockenhurst Village Hall,

the show dates will be as follows: -

Sunday 7th November - Get in All day

Monday 8th - Tech rehearsal 7pm

Tuesday 9th - Dress rehearsal 7pm

Wednesday 10th - 2nd Dress 7.30pm

(To be used as show date nearer the time if we sell out all other dates!)

Thursday 11th - 1st performance 7.30pm

Friday 12th - 2nd performance 2.30pm

Friday 12th - 3rd performance 7.30pm

Saturday 13th - 4th performance 7.30pm

(Get out/de-rig immediately after last show)

Please note that for this show we are trialling our matinee day on the Friday instead of Saturday. This is due to the feedback we have received from Committee/publicity for the last couple of shows, where we have been told that

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TICKET SALES / FRONT OF HOUSE / RAFFLE PRIZES

TICKET SALES

MMS is now only weeks away from performing Titanic, so NOW is the time to really push ticket sales. Two hundred & seventy-four tickets have been purchased so far, and Saturday evening 1st Class have almost sold out! How many tickets have YOU sold? Every ticket purchased over the next few weeks means more money in the 'kitty' for MMS, more 'bums' on seats, and hopefully a full house for every performance. Titanic is going to be a great show; therefore persuade your friends and family to watch you perform in this fantastic musical. If necessary use your

pink ticket coupons to sell tickets. Please see me at rehearsals if you need advice or help.

FRONT OF HOUSE

During the run of the show we will need volunteers to run 'front of house'. Jo Mansfield has offered to 'manage' this important job with the help of Alison Peach. More help will be needed to sell programmes, raffle tickets etc. If you know of anyone who would be willing to help, even if it is only for one performance, please inform Jo or myself.

RAFFLE PRIZES

In the past MMS has made up 'posh' food hampers. These have proved to be popular raffle prizes and a successful way of raising funds. From now until performance dates, suitable items of non perishable food (not smart price, or out of date!), tins, packets, wine, champagne etc., will be gratefully received to make up the hampers, also large wicker baskets or something similar to present the goods. Please add an extra item or two to your shopping list and hand it to me during rehearsals. Thank you.

Marlene Lewis

POSTERS AND ON SCREEN ADVERTISING FOR TITANIC

A Key element in the production of any show is the selling of the tickets, and the money we as a society can generate from commercial advertising during the show. With Titanic, our options are significant, as the production allows for large TV monitors and a full size projection screen as part of the set. We can therefore offer live video advertising to commercial businesses in the local area. Your committee is prepared to tackle as many opportunities as you can throw at us, but we need the leads in the first place.

SO..... If you can give some serious thought to any places, either where you

work, or have personal or family connections to, where we can target advertising it is not a moment too soon.

Please pass your ideas on to anyone on the committee so we can action a visit or contact.

It doesn't matter if it's only a small business, like a shop or service supplier, or indeed a chain store or big business. If it looks like there's a connection to the sea, or ships then it's got real potential. They all need advertising, and our rates are extremely competitive .

If everyone in the Society gave us one lead, that con-

verted into an advertisement, either on screen or in the programme, it means literally thousands of pounds of revenue for the show, and much needed security for the Society and its plans for the future productions; **all of which will benefit YOU, our members and performers.**

As an extra opportunity, we are planning to print off **LARGE DAYGLOW POSTERS** that are 4 foot by 3 foot, or 3' x 2', for members to display on their property, either in a window or pasted to a board or fence panel in your garden; just like an Estate agents board. You may have to be inven-

tive in how it is fixed up and we'll try to help where we can, but in the first place **please tell the committee members which size you would like.**

Lastly, we have thousands of handy A4 and smaller leaflets, in full colour, that need to be taken by ALL OF US for mailing to friends and family, putting through letter boxes nearby or sticking in the side windows of your cars.

Be proud and sail on Titanicers. The rest is History!!

Regards,
Jonathan Shiner

**RATE CARDS AND ORDER FORMS ARE AVAILABE AT REHEARSAL OR PHONE
JOHN TEATHER ON 01425 610383 / 07802 203410**

Next Social Events (see the calendar for more events)

<p>January</p>	<p>Saturday 30th - "A Night to Remember", an evening of history and nostalgia.</p> <p>Please let me know your attendance by return as this helps in terms of catering, costs and choices. Tables are selling fast, please see me ASAP to avoid disappointment.</p> <p>I will also be checking with everyone about the menu choice. If you prefer a sausage rather than fish, please let me know. If I do not hear from you the assumption is you want fish!</p>
<p>February</p>	<p>Saturday 20th from 7.00pm - Milton Entertains Milton</p> <p>An evening of entertainment laid on by you! Supper with a variety of performances by members of the society. If you are a newer member, don't be reserved-get on the playlist. Song, poems, acting or comedy welcome. More details to follow.</p> <p>Call/txt or email to reserve your table (07525 389204) social@miltonms.org Now booking Acts.... Let me know what you want to do!!!</p>

Milton Musical Society

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

* New since last Newsletter

January	Saturday 30th	A Night to Remember
	Sunday 31st 2.00pm - 6.00pm at Sopley	Extra Titanic Rehearsal
February	Monday 8th	Committee Meeting
	Saturday 20th	Milton Entertains Milton
March	Monday 8th	Committee Meeting
April	Tuesday 6th	Committee Meeting
	13th - 17th	TITANIC
	TBC	Karaoke BBQ
May	Monday 10th	Committee Meeting
	TBC	Annual Dinner Dance
June	Monday 14th	Committee Meeting
	*TBC	Murder on the Med
July	Monday 12th	Committee Meeting
	TBC	American Supper
August	Monday 9th	Committee Meeting
	TBC	Annual Croquet Match
September	Monday 13th	Committee Meeting
October	Monday 11th	Committee Meeting
November	Monday 1st	Committee Meeting
	7th - 13th Brockenhurst Village Hall	Hitchhikers Guide to the Musical Galaxy
	Monday 22nd	AGM
May 2011	16th - 21st Regent Centre	Main production TBC

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many homes cannot bring residents to weekend matinees, as the staff who drive the buses/accompany the residents don't work weekends, but they are always looking for things to do during the week. We hope that providing a weekday matinee will therefore prove more popular. This does of course mean that many of you who would like to be in the show need to arrange the time off work to do so. For those of you who cannot arrange the time off work we will consider role sharing where possible.

We will be holding a show presentation evening on **Wednesday May 19th**, followed by auditions on **Sunday 6th**

June. Rehearsals will commence during July and will be held on two nights a week, one for the singing and the other for the dancing. A couple of Sunday rehearsals may also be required.

Anyone who wants to be in the show can be, there will be no restrictions on the numbers, but auditions will be held for those who would like to be considered for any of the following roles:-

Solo/small group singing - You will need to sing a solo song of your own choice.

Acting - You will need to perform a sketch/poem/monologue of your own choice.

Dancing - There will be a set dance audition which will be taught on the

day.

If you don't wish to audition, but would like to be in the show, you will stay within the main choir, who will remain on stage throughout the show and have plenty to do, never fear! Just make sure you register your interest with either Jo or Michele by Sunday 6th June.

Michele, Martin & I are currently working hard to get the finished script ready and hope to complete it by March. Watch this space!

From your very excited Director –

Jo Mansfield