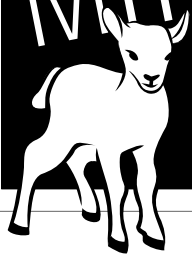


# Milton Musical Society March Newsletter



Volume 2, Issue 4

MARCH 2010

## EDITORIAL

*I often get asked the question 'how is Titanic going? My reply is always the same 'brilliantly!' That really is the truth - we have just completed 3 months of music rehearsals and now we are 'on the floor' setting each scene. I always maintain, that a director's job is done once they get the casting right. We really do have 60 talented people in this show. I have never met such dedication and enthusiasm. Even more importantly - we are still good friends - but there is time yet.....*

*Then after Titanic - we have two more superb shows to look forward to. The more we learn of 'Hitchhiker' the more it sounds like it is going to be fun for both the audience and the cast. The autumn show does really provide a fantastic opportunity for people to test their skills and realise their hidden talents.*

*Scarlet Pimpernel will be a thrilling show. We have secured the services of a first class production team - see Michele's article for more detail.*

*It makes you proud to be a member!*

**John Teather**



## April 14th - 17th

### Bath Travel Cheque Presentation

As you know we have procured a major sponsor in the form of Bath Travel and in order to maximise the publicity for both Bath Travel, and ourselves, Stephen Bath will be attending our rehearsal on Wednesday March 3<sup>rd</sup> to ceremoniously hand over the "dosh". The press have been invited and this is a great opportunity to give some influential people a preview of the show. If you are called for that night (I believe it is a full call) then please make sure you are in fine voice.

### Show Week Help

Thanks to everyone who has responded to pleas for help during show week. If you do know of someone who might be a willing victim but you haven't managed to speak to them, then let the following know: Front of House – Marlene Lewis on [marlene.lewis@talk21.com](mailto:marlene.lewis@talk21.com); Chaperones – Marie Colman on [crazys-malls@tesco.net](mailto:crazys-malls@tesco.net) Hair/Make up Wardrobe etc... me [michelemw@live.co.uk](mailto:michelemw@live.co.uk). It is not too late. The reason we need to know asap is to make sure that everyone involved gets their credit in the programme.

### Regent Centre Visit

Many of you indicated that you would benefit from a visit to the theatre ahead of the big week. I am trying to sort out some dates and as there were quite a

few of you it may be that we have to have more than one trip. I will send details out on the email when I have them

### Tickets

Well done on the ticket sales everyone. We have now done 25% of the tickets we need to break even. PLEASE keep pushing. We have done so well for this stage in the rehearsal schedule but now is the time that we REALLY have to push.

Jonathan and the Committee are busy working on some initiative with local businesses but get those flyers out, and posters up and **PUSH, PUSH, PUSH.....** According to the Regent Centre we are bucking all the trends at the moment and **we want to keep it that way.**

On the Production side, it's all happening. The set and the sound have been ordered, so there is no going back now! In the next few weeks there will be costume rehearsals and Carolyn will be coming in to see what needs to be done hair wise.

In the next Newsletter, which **scarily** will be the last before the show, I will go through all the "show week" stuff, dressing rooms, and "get-in" procedures and responsibilities.

*Michele*

**The Box Office for the show is at the Regent Centre. You can either go online at [www.regentcentre.co.uk](http://www.regentcentre.co.uk) or ring 01202 499199**

## View from the Chair



Welcome to our March Newsletter. Yes another month has gone and that stage is ever nearer for what is going to be a fabulous show. The membership of the society continues to grow and the reputation of the hard work and good output from members has attracted people from far and wide, all of whom we welcome with open arms.

Our committee continues to keep their feet on the gas pedal and some of the operations behind the scenes to keep Milton on an even keel-(pardon the pun!) are moving at a rate of knots (oops there's another one). On behalf of the membership I would like to extend thanks to all of you who have made so much effort to get publicity, ad-

verts and sponsorship for our show and hence our future.

We have perhaps, as a whole, taken for granted the ticket sales picture with early indicators being that tickets were doing very well,

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and they were. However, we still have 1018 tickets to sell to break even. We have now individually got to step up to the plate and get everyone we know interested in the show. So here are some simple ideas:

1. Talk about your experiences at rehearsal, tell everyone you meet about the show-there is only one show worth seeing in the area this Spring!!
2. Send an invite to all your social networking friends
3. Put a flyer in your car window and on the staffroom notice board at work

We are still looking for advertisers and sponsors, so if you have any leads, please inform a member of the committee-see their contact details on the back of this newsletter.

It is a particular passion of mine that this society offers opportunity for growth and development for all. We are a friendly society and can only survive when everyone plays their part. A great example of this was the recent social event that raised just short of £500 for our group. This was due to every member of the committee and other members pitching in to run the

event, and those of you who attended the event and supported Milton. There was over 70 people at the event and we welcome all of you and your friends back at any time. We cannot rely on the same people all the time and would appreciate any member who volunteers to help –don't be shy.

Rehearsals are very busy now, but the general buzz around the place is encouraging. There are a couple of housekeeping items to mention regarding subscriptions and rehearsal fees. Subscriptions are due on the 30th of September each year, so if you haven't paid for 2009/2010 please do so immediately. Jo (our treasurer) is happy to assist anyone who would like to raise a standing order to pay a sum monthly to ensure they are paid for next year ahead of the deadline for September this year.

Can I also remind everyone that we have a standard fee of £1.50 per rehearsal (except Juniors who should pay £1). This includes a drink and raffle ticket. You will appreciate that our society of course would not condone under age drinking or any other illegal act, and so for anyone under the age of 18 that wins the raffle, a non-alcoholic prize will be available. This is also available to anyone who would prefer a non-alcoholic prize.

It was a huge pleasure to announce our 2011 show as Scarlet Pimpernel. The music to this show is both captivating and breathtaking, (I am so excited by the music that I am already learning some for the Bourne-mouth Music Festival). The show is set in both England and France during the time of the French Revolution. The mood of the show moves between every emotion and everyone I speak to about the show that has done it has said how refreshing and fun the show is. There are fight scenes for the boys and very glamorous gowns for the girls. So make sure you put the show dates in your diary! Further information about the show see later in this Newsletter.

This is a very exciting time for us all, and we can now move to planning for the autumn concert after Scarlet Pimpernel and the show in 2012. The newsletter is overflowing with many items, so take your time to digest all the articles and information and contact the relevant committee member for further assistance. If you have any articles for inclusion in the newsletter, please forward it to the Editor before the next deadline March 15th.

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

*Regards, Vicky*

## Milton Entertains Milton

### What?

An evening of entertainment by some of the members of MMS. Each table will be served cheese platters, fruit & biscuits and each person served a glass of wine as part of your ticket price. There will also be a bar available for you to purchase your own drinks.

### Why?

As a fundraising event and as a thank you to our Friends for their support over the last year. All money raised will go towards the costs of Titanic.

### Where?

At St Marks Hall, Hinton-wood Road, Highcliffe.

### When?

Saturday 20th February. Bar

opens at 7.30pm, entertainment starts at 8pm

### How Much?

£7.50 per head, complimentary for our 'Friends' members

We have a great line up of entertainment for you, so bring along your friends and family for a socialable night out. Our last event, A Night

to Remember, raised nearly £500 so this is the target we now have to beat!

Contact our wonderful new Social Secretary, Emily Manion, for your tickets for this event, or our equally wonderful (that'll score me some points!!) Chairman, Vicky Clark. (Contact details on the back of this newsletter)

*Jo Mansfield*

## NEW KID ON THE BLOCK

Over the next few months I will be taking over the role of Social Secretary. I am really excited to be involved with the committee (especially in such a fun role – socialising, what could be better??) I have been involved in amateur dramatics from a very young age and have performed with several local societies but I have to say that

Milton is by far one of the most friendly, talented, welcoming groups I have ever had the pleasure being with. So I want to say a massive 'Thank You!' to all of you for making the last few months so enjoyable, I am really looking forward to getting to know you all better at rehearsals and at all of the great social events we have planned!

*Emily Manion*

# MORE TITANIC NEWS & INFORMATION

We all bang on about these ticket sales, but if the publicity isn't good enough, then the show isn't seen by enough people and the whole process is pretty pointless. Lots of us are doing some amazing things to raise public awareness. Poster and flyer packs are available for your area. Every shop or of-

fice that takes one means someone could be tempted to come and see US ON STAGE, and how cool is that? Individual folk have sold 30-40 tickets, so it can be done.

We are promoting restaurants to do dinner or supper and see the show joint sales, and there are lots of good eating

houses that want more bums on seats. This way they get a group. You only have to suggest it, and tell me and I'll sort out the posters and make the arrangements.

What about persuading a business or company to take an advert on screen or in the programme. 2000 captive

members of the public are a good target. Think of all those clever adverts you see in the cinema.....

Go on, you know its possible. Just ask the question and then pass the matter on to me for the selling!!

**Jonathan**

## TICKET SALES

NOW is the time to push ticket sales, four hundred and eighty-two have been purchased to date. How many tickets have YOU sold? Titanic is going to be a great show; therefore persuade your friends and family to watch you perform in this fantastic musical. **Use your ticket coupons to sell tickets**, remember, Michele handed you a book of ten at the first few rehearsals! If you

are unable to take coupons or buy tickets from Regent Centre personally, I will do it for you. See me at rehearsals with your ticket orders, cash or cheque (made payable to Regent Centre).

## FRONT OF HOUSE

Thank you for the offers of help for front of house. Help is still required for Thursday and Saturday evening performances. Email or see me during

rehearsals if you know of suitable people to help.

## 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.

Large wicker baskets or something similar to present the goods are needed, also bubble wrap, packing tissue and rolls of wrapping paper (not with greetings on). Please add an extra item or two to your shopping list and hand it to me during rehearsals.

*Thank you, Marlene*

This is my 1st report re Publicity and what I am doing to get bums on seats! Firstly let me tell you a little story, when I was working I had to give a monthly report on my activities and I got the feeling that they were not being read, so for every report over the next 18 months I inserted the word "knickers" and every month changed the colour! This only came to light when a new MD arrived. This

proved they we not being read, the moral of this story is when you see me in the months ahead tell me what colour they are.

Anyway I'm devoting up to two days a week walking the pavements and knocking on doors trying to sell space in the programme and telling all the WI's, Probus, Bowling clubs in the area about the show, Brockenhurst WI

is sending 14 I'm new to door knocking and rejection so if anybody has a contact that might be interested in placing an advert in the programme please give me a call.

This is a very important behind the scenes part of the organisation, so any help would be gratefully received.

*Les Del-Nevo*

## Saturday the 30<sup>th</sup> January saw a mil estone in the Society's history; namel y, the most successful Social event of the century.

**St Mark's Hall was packed as nearly 100 members and friends swarmed in to experience the true drama and hair-raising factual account of the Disaster that befell the Titanic, all those years ago.**

Captain Mark Thomson, a noted Marine Historian and Master Mariner spoke eloquently with pictures and charts to support him on the unfolding tragedy. His story began in Belfast, where Titanic was built, and ended with the aftermath of the sinking and the appalling loss of life in mid Atlantic, brought about by a com-

bination of unbelievable coincidences and misunderstandings. Marine History truly in the making.

After 40 minutes, the audience were spellbound and dumb-struck, but fortunately Les del Nivo arrived with a boot full of fresh fish and chips to lighten the mood and brought us all back to reality with flavours familiar to all.

The audience expressed their appreciation in the usual way and then, with the Bar open, fell to their favourite pastime of eating

and drinking.

Barely was the vinegar on the chips, before the second treat of the evening was upon us; the feature film of the disaster as depicted in the 1955 movie, "A Night to Remember". Dramatic music filled the hall as the lights were dimmed and we were entertained by Kenneth More, dressed in thick Arran jumper, playing the part of Mr Lightoller, the survivor from the ship's officers. His heroic antics and the story detail have undoubtedly given us all a real taste for the drama that awaits us on the

Regent Centre stage, this April!!

Late into the night, members hung on to finish their drinks and relive the excitement of the evening.

A successful raffle as well as a copious Bar added to the coffers for the nights profit, and the Society has well and truly set itself a benchmark for Social events.

Can we entertain ourselves this month in similar fashion???????

*Jonathan Shiner*

## Hitchhiker's Guide to the *Musical* Galaxy

Michele and I are working hard to produce the script for this show by the end of March. We have chosen some great music from a huge range of shows and have got some funny sketches too. We would like your help in finding some more sketches though and would like you to send us any sketches/jokes that you have involving languages/travel/food. Please email them to [joanne.mansfield@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:joanne.mansfield@hotmail.co.uk) or [michelemlw@live.co.uk](mailto:michelemlw@live.co.uk). We can't promise to use them all but will use as many as possible. Thank you.

The important dates for your diary are:

Read through/presentation evening - Wednesday 19th May

Auditions - Sunday 6th June

First rehearsal - Wednesday 7th July (then every following Friday & Wednesday)

Show dates at Brockenhurst Village Hall

Tech Rehearsal - Mon 8th Nov @ 7.30pm

Dress Rehearsal - Tues 9th Nov @ 7.30pm

Preview Night - Wed 10th Nov @ 7.30pm

First show - Thur 11th Nov @ 7.30pm

Second show - Fri 12th Nov @ 2.30pm

Third show - Fri 13th Nov @ 7.30pm

4th show - Sat 14th Nov @ 7.30pm

Remember we are looking for a large cast so there is room for you all. If you don't want to perform then we still need your help with things like set building, props and front of house duties so you can't get out of it that easily!!

Please see either Michele or me if you require any more information

*Jo Mansfield, Director*

## The Scarlet Pimpernel - MAY 2011

*They seek him here,*

*They seek him there,*

*Those Frenchies seek him everywhere.*

*Is he in heaven?*

*Is he in Hell?*

*That darned elusive...Pimpernel.*

Yes folks, as you all know by now our show for 2011 is *THE SCARLET PIMPERNEL*. With fabulous music, amazing costumes and wigs, and even a sword fight, this flamboyant musical is the ideal antidote to Titanic.

Again, a big musical calls for a big cast so there is plenty for everyone

Nominated for three Tony awards in 1978, including Best Musical, this lavish production, with music by Frank Wildhorn and lyrics and book by Nan Knighton, is based on the novel of the same name by

Baroness Orczy. A typical story of boy meets girl, boy loses girl, boy gets girl back again, the show is set in England and France against the backdrop of the Reign of Terror, of the French Revolution.

Show dates are 18<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> May 2011 with the usual get-in etc on the three days preceding. The "read-thru" DVD showing will be on 6<sup>th</sup> September with open auditions on 19th September.

The first rehearsal is planned for 5th December. Again, a big musical calls for a big cast so there is plenty for everyone.

Your production team is Director Michele M-W, Producer John Teather, Musical Director Lee Marchant, and Choreographer Jo Mansfield. A CD of the music will be available along with show synopsis and characterisations at a later date, but as always - despite how excited we are - we want to keep focus on the **current** show.

However, there are plenty of clips on YouTube to keep you busy.

**Michele**

# Social Events (see the calendar for more events)

**A very exciting month ahead with our first "Friends of the Society" Social on the 20th February.** Final preparations are being made and anyone who needs a ticket should inform Jo or Vicky by Friday 19th latest-due to catering requirements. Tickets are only £7.50 and include entertainment, a cheese supper and a glass of wine. Many of your friends within the society will be performing, its another one not to miss. Please support this very important do!

Another great evening was had by those attending the Night to Remember evening.

The event would not have been as successful if it wasn't for the number of people involved in the smooth running of the event. Unfortunately I was unable to be there for the evening, but knew you were very much in safe hands. I would like to thank Jo for

managing the evening, Pat and Terry for managing the kitchen. Thanks also to Rob, Michele and Doug for running the bar. (Special thanks to Doug for being our licensee once again.) Marlene, Marie, Jo, Michele, Sian and Jordan for helping with the food, raffle and Coin Jar game. If it wasn't for Les, you wouldn't have had the food, well done for keeping them as warm as you could in the freezing cold weather. Jonathan did the footwork on organising the speaker for us and thanks as always to our technical wizard JT who made sure you could hear the speaker and see the film.

Each event takes a lot of organising-so if you want to join the "Social Team", to help organise and support the Social Secretary (and therefore your Society)- let me know. One person who did this was Emily Manion (aka Caroline). Emily has been formally co-opted onto committee as Social Secretary. Emily

will be a huge asset to the team and brings many skills suitable for the role. She is highly organised and assertive and keen to give you the best events possible. She is very approachable and keen to hear from all members, young and older with regards to any thoughts and ideas on future social events as well as to ensure you continue to get quality, fun socials. See her blog in this newsletter. Contact details for Emily are listed on the back page of the newsletter too.

I will be assisting Emily and anyone else interested in being involved can let either of us know.

In the meantime, a diary of events are listed below, please put these in your diary and support Milton Musical Society.

*Your ex- Social Secretary, Vicky x*

<b>February</b>	<p><b>20<sup>TH</sup> FROM 7.00PM MILTON ENTERTAINS MILTON</b></p> <p>Ticket only. £7.50</p> <p>An evening of entertainment laid on by several members of the society! Cheese and Wine Supper with a variety of performances by members of the society. If you are a newer member, don't be reserved-get in on the guest list.</p> <p>Evening begins at 7.30 with an open bar and Act one of the entertainment. During the interval the supper will be served at the table, following a short interval, Act Two commences for your entertainment. The bar will be open throughout the show and there will also be a raffle and a chance to reserve your ticket for the Annual Dinner Dance to be held in May or to reserve tickets for the next company production- Titanic.</p> <p>Call/txt or email to reserve your table (07525 389204) <a href="mailto:social@miltonmusical.org">social@miltonmusical.org</a>)</p>
<b>March</b>	Postponing skittles due to heavy rehearsal schedules etc
<b>April</b>	<p><b>KARAOKE BBQ</b></p> <p>To be held at the Mansfield's in Southbourne. £5 per ticket to include BBQ supper. Date to be confirmed</p>
<b>May</b>	<p><b>ANNUAL DINNER AND DANCE</b></p> <p>St Marks Hall, Highcliffe. Buffet style Dinner, Cabaret and Disco, Sumptuous Dinner, Bar, Raffle and Annual Awards</p>
<b>June</b>	<p><b>IT'S A KNOCKOUT, GAMES NIGHT AT ST MARKS</b></p> <p>Bar, Raffle, and team games.</p> <p>More details to follow</p>
<b>July</b>	<p><b>10<sup>TH</sup> LAST NIGHT OF THE PROMS- Supporting Lee Marchant and his Orchestra. Guest singers including Alex Cook.</b></p> <p>Ticket also includes Dinner at the Royal Bath Hotel, Bournemouth. See Emily/Vicky for further details about booking your space on the Milton Table(s)</p> <p><b>AMERICAN SUPPER</b> at Margots tbc</p>
<b>August</b>	<p><b>ANNUAL CROQUET</b> tbc</p> <p><b>CHAIRMAN'S HEN NIGHT!!</b></p>

# Milton Musical Society

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## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

\* New since last  
Newsletter

<b>February</b>	Saturday 20th	Milton Entertains Milton
<b>March</b>	Monday 8th	Committee Meeting
<b>April</b>	Tuesday 6th	Committee Meeting
	14th - 17th	<b>TITANIC</b>
	TBC	Karaoke BBQ
<b>May</b>	Monday 10th	Committee Meeting
	*Wednesday 19th	Hitchhiker Presentation Evening
	TBC	Annual Dinner Dance
<b>June</b>	*Sunday 6th	Hitchhiker Auditions
	Monday 14th	Committee Meeting
	*TBC	Murder on the Med
<b>July</b>	Monday 12th	Committee Meeting
	TBC	American Supper
<b>August</b>	Monday 9th	Committee Meeting
	TBC	Annual Croquet Match
<b>September</b>	Monday 6th	Introduction to Scarlet Pimpernel
	*Monday 13th	Committee Meeting
	*Sunday 19th	Scarlet Pimpernel Auditions
<b>October</b>	Monday 11th	Committee Meeting
<b>November</b>	Monday 1st	Committee Meeting
	8th - 14th Brockenhurst Village Hall	<b>Hitchhikers Guide to the Musical Galaxy</b>
	*Saturday 20th St Marks Highcliffe	Quiz Night
	Monday 22nd	AGM
<b>December</b>	*Sunday 5th	Scarlet Pimpernel 1st Rehearsal
<b>May 2011</b>	16th - 21st Regent Centre	<b>Scarlet Pimpernel the Musical</b>