



The official magazine of Ringwood Musical & Dramatic Society Issue No 50 - October 2011

FOREWORD

This is the first day after the wonderfully warm Indian Summer we have all enjoyed so much and at last I am moved to stay indoors to begin Stagetalk – Autumn 2011.

This is always a manic time of year in the Society's calendar with the final stages of rehearsals for both the Soirée and play, together with the first rehearsals and auditions for the Easter musical all happening about now. In addition this year the choir is in rehearsal twice a week for the Centenary Memorial Concert on Sunday 6th November and the Exhibition is showing at the Meeting House - so many of us are out every night of the week with meetings having to be held on Friday nights and weekends. With so many productions within 3 weeks, spare a thought for our technical team, especially Mark and Rachel who, with good humour (so far!) are 'mantling' and dismantling scenery, lights etc. every few days. If you can spare more than a thought, perhaps an hour or two to assist with set-building, get-ins and outs, or in countless other ways it would be most appreciated. Each section of our Society depends on the others to function. The play, with only a small cast, needs the support of others backstage and front of house, the profits from the play and other shows are essential to enable the choir to operate, help is needed for the Soirée which gives so much fun and produces invaluable funds for us all to benefit from and of course the Musical and Summer Show need support and commitment from us all every year. A Society only functions successfully if the members put in as much as they get out of it. End of Sermon!

When you are in town don't miss the Exhibition. Sam and his team have put together a most interesting display. The old minute books in

particular are fascinating and the financial comparisons over the years are a real eye-opener. There are photographs of many of the present members from years back causing much disbelief in some cases! The Exhibition will remain in the Meeting House until some time in December and for as often as we can organise it there will be a member there to welcome people and answer any questions they may have.

This is the last Stagetalk of our Centenary year. Although there are more productions to come, mostly in the next three weeks, we have completed our official social events and the two highlights have been the Centenary party at Greyfriars in February and the Summer Ball both of which were a wonderful success. We will then just be left with the Choir Christmas Concerts to complete our celebrations. Thank you for your cooperation throughout the year. Please support the Exhibition and the Christmas Concerts – it looks as if we will be opening the start of the next hundred years with a bang in the shape of *Titanic* and *Calendar Girls* as well as everything else going on.

As always to all of you in *Soirée*, *Hay Fever* and the memorial Concert, which must be most of the Society, we wish you enormous success and enjoyment in your productions.

Useful Websites

NODA	www.noda.org.uk
Membership no 00002274 (you will need this to create your own membership log in password)	
RMDS	www.rmids.org.uk
RMDS CHOIR	www.rmidschoir.org.uk
GREEN ROOM	www.rmidsgreenroom.co.uk

SPOTLIGHT ON JOHN AND JANET WEST

In 1951 in Grimsby a local Solicitor John West and his wife Margaret gave birth to a son John. He had an older half brother and was to have a younger sister. John was educated in Oundle School and Cambridge where he followed the family tradition and read Law. While at University he played hockey and rowed for his College both of which sports he thoroughly enjoyed. On graduating he joined the family firm where he remained for 10 years. During his preparation for the Law, John had found public speaking a problem, but with hard work and perseverance he overcame his difficulties and has since regretted not becoming a Barrister.

In 1973 at a party in London he spotted a very beautiful young lady across the room and was said to have remarked to his friend 'that's the girl I'm going to marry' and after a long distance romance lasting 18 months, marry her he did! John married Janet Temperley in a church outside Grimsby in 1975.

Soldier George Temperley met Lilian at a dance, they married and eventually both became civil servants. Janet, one of their two daughters attended Bishops Holt Grammar School until she was 16 when the family moved to Hastings and she was transferred to Hastings High School for Girls which she hated. While she was at school it became obvious that she had a very special voice. At the age of 17 and without her parents' knowledge Janet applied for a place at the Royal College of Music. She was successful and spent 3 years studying voice there – she now considers that 17 was far too young for such a move. During this time she sang in the chorus of 'Dido and Aeneas' with Kiri te Kanoa as Dido in the days when Dame Kiri was relatively unknown and at London Opera Centre.' On leaving the Royal College Janet went straight into the D'Oyley Carte Opera Company, and for two years performed in Gilbert and Sullivan operas all across the country with 3 months based at the Savoy. She sang mainly in the chorus taking small parts and sometimes understudying the Principals.

In 1971 Janet moved to Milan to study opera. She became an au pair girl to fund her singing lessons and her resulting ability to speak Italian enabled her to land a very good job on her return to England after two years. She became PA to

the Managing Director of AGIP Oil Company – while she was there she attended a party where she met John. From here on our two stories merge.

After the wedding in Grimsby in 1975 Janet worked as a librarian there before giving birth to their daughter Anna and two sons Francis and Rob. When the children were small the family left Grimsby and moved to Reading where John joined a firm of Solicitors called Shoemith and Harrison and very soon became a partner. After years of work John set up the computerisation of legal processes which is now used all across the legal profession. In 1983 he moved to the South Coast to run a new office for the firm, now called just Shoemith. The family lived in Shawford and John's office was in Solent Business Park near Fareham

During the 15 years when the children were growing up Janet did no singing at all until she joined Winchester Operatic Society performing shows in the Theatre Royal. John also at that time became interested in am-drams – his first role was Sir Joseph Porter in HMS Pinafore. Almost inevitably the children followed their parents' interest and the whole family were taking part in stage productions. Janet was Lady Chiang in 'King and I' with Eastleigh Operatic Society where her sister was MD, with Rob as the young Prince while Anna was appearing in 'Grease'. Janet was also singing in two small groups of singers called Airs and Graces and the Meon Singers which performed gigs in the area.

In 1999 tragedy struck the West family when Anna was diagnosed with skin cancer – after a year of chemotherapy and operations she sadly died at the age of 21. The family was devastated and although they tried to come to terms with things Janet and John eventually decided to completely change their lives. John gave up the Law and they moved to Burley where they bought a beautiful cottage which had been a Care Home. They refurbished it and now run it as an award winning Guest House. With 6 letting rooms Janet and John are very busy but still make time for their am-dram activities and life in Burley where John is Clerk to the Council. Francis is now married and living in London and Rob is Operations Manager of a firm called Bushcraft based in Oxford.

Until Titfield Thunderbolt Janet had done no straight acting but since then she has appeared in several plays with us and other groups and is a very accomplished actress. John has excelled in many parts and has directed Panto and assisted in some musicals. They are both appearing in 'Hay Fever' – we are very lucky to have the benefit of two such talented performers.

Sonya Winding Along The Silk Road Continued

We soon had news that our camp was under a foot of snow, so were redirected to another one at the village of Naryn. On arrival, we found that the yurts had all leaked in the heavy rain and snow, and that most of the beds were wet! One guy found an earthworm in his!! You can imagine that not a lot of sleep was had.

Next morning we set off again, making for the Torugart Pass, to get us through the mountains and into China. The weather was perfect, but the road was only dirt and there had been a lot of snow and heavy rain recently. As we got higher we soon got into difficulties. The track had in places completely disappeared, and many times our driver just had to take a run at it, and we all held our breath whilst being thrown about in the back. Finally the track disappeared altogether, and we joined a small static queue of lorries all trying to get into China. We all got out in the snow to survey the situation. At last after a long wait, a lorry came from the other direction and dumped a load of earth in the place where the road should have been, and Sergi, our marvellous driver, finally got us through the beautiful scenery to the pass at 12310 ft. and on to the Chinese border.

After another 100 miles gradual descent we reached the mountain city of Kashgar, and booked into our hotel which had formerly been the British Consulate. It was extremely shabby, and was due to be demolished as soon as we were out.

Kashgar was once an important trading post on the Silk Road, and the host to many travellers and caravans. The majority of the population are Uighurs, a colourfully dressed Central Asian people who speak a Turkik tongue, use Arabic script and are Sunni Muslims. The little alleyways full of shops and traders were fascinating. Wonderful displays of dried fruit, and other foods can be seen, and markets with fresh produce are teeming with people. In Central Asia there is a custom to have gold teeth, and some people have a complete mouthful, which are handed down through the family!! There is also, among women, a custom to have one large eyebrow right across the eyes, which is seen as a sign of beauty.

There were little tailors' shops, wonderful displays of bright material, vicious looking knives, copper pots and



a host of other interesting goods.

The highlight of Kashgar was the famous Sunday market, one of the most colourful and exotic markets in Asia. Uighur and Kyrgyz traders of camels, goats, horses, donkeys, leather, daggers and a thousand other goods, gather here from many miles around to trade and barter. It was so exciting, especially when a large bull escaped into the crowd.

The next train journey skirted the Taklamakan Desert. I woke early and crept out of the compartment to look out of the window, and there were the huge desert sand dunes like mountains, covered in

snow. It was such a beautiful sight with the morning sun shining!

Turpan is a lovely oasis, in the second lowest depression in the world. It has a rainfall of 0.62", and for 50 days in the year the temp. is more than 40 degrees. In winter it can drop to -28 degrees so there is a huge variance. In spite of the lack of rain, Turpan is a green and fertile place, famous for its vineyards. This is due to an intricate irrigation system which brings the melted snows from the mountains via a complex system of underground channels covering many miles.

Then another night on the train to Liuyan, where we watched the sun come up over the desert, then went by camel across the dunes to the Crescent Moon Lake, a natural wonder that has existed for thousands of years amidst the towering sand dunes.

Then on to Dunhuang, another important trading link. Here we visited the famous Buddhist shrines at the Mogao Caves, where, in the 20th century a chance discovery of a cache of documents helped to shed light on daily life and beliefs along the Silk Road more than 1000 years ago.

Our journey continued by road across hundreds of miles of Gobi Desert, passing huge wind turbine farms, and also small lengths of the Great Wall, and eventually to Jiayuguan, a pleasant modern town, which was originally developed to cater for the nearby military garrison. We visited the famous Ming Dynasty Jiayu Fort which for many centuries guarded China's western frontier. It is a well preserved and important part of the Great Wall, and the museum there was full of interest.

The next day we arrived in Xian, the very starting point of the old Silk Road, and the capital of 13 dynasties. We visited the lovely Wild Goose Pagoda, but by now were



well and truly back to civilisation, and there were crowds of Chinese sightseers there. We also went to see the beautiful and peaceful Great Mosque in the Muslim quarter, set in lovely gardens.



The next morning found us, early to beat the crowds, at the tomb of Qin Shi Huangdi, which is guarded of course by the amazing Terra Cotta Army. There are literally thousands of warriors, horses, chariots etc dating from 200 BC. They were discovered accidentally by three farmers who were digging a well, and new pits and more warriors are being found all the time. It is thought that there is much more still undiscovered, and so far

the actual tomb has not been opened. The surviving farmer was there in the museum, and signed my book for me. I also got a good photo of him doing it.

Our hotel in Xian was much more comfortable, and there was a good range of inexpensive restaurants. We had a wonderful duck feast on our last night in Xian, before setting off on a short flight to Beijing.

Beijing, the political and cultural centre of the country, has been the capital for much of the time since the days of Kublai Khan, and all clocks in this great country are set by Beijing time! We wandered around Tianamen Square, and spent a long time in the Forbidden City, which was fascinating. Then a shopping spree to the Pearl and Silk markets which were vast but great fun.

The following day we journeyed out of the city to part of the Great Wall, where we were able to climb quite high into the hills. The views from up there were wonderful, and something I will never forget. It has surely earned its place amongst the wonders of the world.

For our last night we went out for a slap up meal, and the final judging of our photo competition. I came third, and my prize was a golden fan with a photo of Mau on it! The whole competition had been great fun, and had added to everyone's enjoyment hugely.

The next day we all said goodbye to Erwin, our lovely Dutch guide, and I flew back to UK with so many memories to savour. It was a month that I will never forget.

Sonya Faulds

MARGARET NEWTON

It is with great sadness that we have just heard of the death of a dear friend Margaret Newton. She died peacefully on 23rd October, surrounded by her family in Nuneaton where she moved some 10 years ago.

Margaret first joined RMDS for *The Mikado* in 1948 and was regularly in the chorus or in small principal parts for over twenty years. After that she took a variety of official duties, working as Wardrobe Mistress, Secretary and Box Office Manager spanning another twenty years. She and her husband John were invaluable servants to this Society and, apart from being keen golfers, devoted all their spare time to RMDS affairs. She moved away in to be near her family but has still been in our thoughts and will always live on the memory of those who knew her.

Thoughts of Chairman Julian: -

Autumn is often the busiest time of the year for RMDS – even more so this year with the rescheduled sell-out choir concert on November 6.

By the time this issue of *Stagetalk* hits the streets the *Soirée* will have completed its opening week – the first without the incomparable John Truman – and the 2011 play Hay Fever will be in full swing.

There's a centenary exhibition in Ringwood's refurbished Meeting House, in another week's time the *Soirée* will be back on, and the day after that's over we'll be in the parish church for the Chris Guy memorial concert. The following day will see the first full rehearsal for our 2012 musical Titanic, and then there'll be the choir's Christmas concerts on the horizon. So busy times indeed.

Too busy, some might say.

With so many things happening at once it sometimes seems like we're spreading ourselves a bit thin on the ground when it comes to staging all the events we have planned – there often just aren't enough people available to keep things running easily. Circumstances have made this year even busier than usual, but even in a normal year we'd expect the play, *Soirée*, main show and choir Christmas concert to be rehearsing at the same time. So how can we ease the pressure in the autumn in future?

The general committee has started giving this some preliminary thought. Choir Christmas concerts have to happen at Christmas, for obvious reasons, but other things could conceivably change.

Radical suggestions include moving the play somewhere else and to a time slot not constrained by availability of a hall at school half term – or simply not even staging a play each year unless we know there's a big demand for it.

Maybe there could be some flexibility in

moving the time and venue of the *Soirée*?

Or perhaps we spend too long rehearsing for our annual big-production musical? RMDS is quite unusual in rehearsing nearly six months for our Easter show – other societies concentrate their rehearsals into a much shorter time frame. Perhaps now that we're all leading busier lives we'd find it easier to commit to something that'll take three or four months rather than six?

All these ideas are nothing more than ideas for discussion at present, but at some time in the New Year you might be receiving a questionnaire asking what direction you think we should be taking. Please have a think about it – and if you have any ideas of your own in the meantime please let your committee members know.

Julian



Two Past Pics

Walking to Santiago de Compostela

The seed of a thought for a long walk has been around for a long time and germinated about five years ago. The seedling put down roots as my retirement approached and I still felt fit enough to achieve the aim. As Anne hates walking at my pace and detests the thought of camping or staying in hostels I knew that this was a project I would have to do by myself. The infrastructure of the pilgrim routes though would give a sense of security to both of us.

There is an entire network of pilgrim paths across Europe. When the Moors swept up through the Spanish peninsula in 8-900 AD the most precious Christian relics were taken to the northern mountains which were cold and inhospitable to the invaders from Africa. A tomb, in a field illuminated by stars (Compo Stela), was discovered in Galicia in the 9th century and the local bishop expediently pronounced that it contained the bones of St James and two of his disciples. Tradition says that after his execution in Jerusalem the apostle's body was put in a stone boat, crewed by angels, and carried all the way to Finisterre, from where Queen Lupa had it drawn inland by oxen to what is now Santiago de Compostela. The site grew to become the most important pilgrimage shrine for the people of northern Europe. Pilgrims followed the main roads of the day and the religious orders established houses and hospitals to look after them.

The most popular modern route is the 780 km Camino Francés which links Saint Jean-Pied-de-Port in the French Pyrenees to Santiago and takes four to six weeks to walk. Many thousands of people use this each year and it is well supported with hostels/albergues, hotels, b&bs, bars, restaurants and signposting. There are quieter alternative paths.

The decision was made to walk from home to Poole and then from Cherbourg, via Mont Saint Michel, Fougères, Angers and Parthenay to Saint Jean d'Angely, across the Gironde by the ferry at Blaye, through the Medoc vineyards to Bordeaux, before crossing Les Landes to reach the Pyrenees at Saint Palais. The GR route 10 runs along the mountains to the Spanish border at Hendaye/Irun where the Camino del Norte starts and follows the north coast of Spain until turning inland to join the Camino Francés just before Santiago. Instead of flying home it was decided to walk back along the Camino Francés to Leon and head north on a little-used route through the Picos de Europa



Picture 1 Jean-Luc shows how to escape from the quicksands at Mont St Michel

to Santander to take the ferry back to Portsmouth. The 2000 miles took 16 weeks.

Overnight accommodation

was a mixture of campsites, b&bs and the dedicated hostels

which have been established for today's walkers and cyclists who have a pilgrim passport; this is stamped at each stay to prove that you are on foot or bike. I preferred to take each day as it came and rarely booked ahead, only deciding at midday where to stop that evening. For maximum flexibility I carried a very light Vaude tent, sleeping bag, cooking gear with a tiny wood-burning stove and ingredients for one evening meal. At 14 kg (30 lbs) my rucksack was heavier than I would have liked but it was all essential for a four month journey. Only on eight occasions did I have to "wild camp" when there just no alternative.

Hostels are set up by societies of local Friends of the Camino, by the convents and monasteries and by local councils wanting a portion of the multi-million euro pilgrimage business. Facilities are basic and vary greatly from superb to awful. Most, but not all, have showers with hot water and some sort of cooking facility. Beds are often double bunks but there is rarely any separation of the sexes. It is odd to be directed by a white-habited monk to where you are going to sleep and find that he is telling the lass next in the queue that she is in the bunk above you! This just becomes the norm though and everybody lives appropriately with it.

The highlights

1) Walking around the quicksands and paddling the three rivers on the original pilgrim route from Genet to Mont Saint Michel was magical. There was a party of 20 led by Jean-Luc, a very distinctive guide with his long white hair, straggling beard and weather-beaten, instant smile.

Bordeaux is a lovely, serene city. It was a pleasure to be gently taking it all in on a cloudless day with a light, comfortable breeze. At 9.00 am the world was just moving enough to get to work more or less on time.

3) The first sight of the Pyrenees after a week among the ragged pine trees on Les Landes was exciting. The mountains on the GR10 were wonderful but very hard work. The villages had changed entirely from French to Basque. The gradients got steeper. The views were stunning.

4) Arriving in Santiago was, of course, a highlight as it was the sum of so much anticipation. Anne & I went to the Pilgrim Mass on the last day of her week's holiday in July for her to have some idea of the number of people from all countries who have made the journey.

5) Crossing the Picos de Europa on the way back to Santander was very special as the mountains go up to 8700 ft. The views are superb.

6) Finally - there is no place like home - and the last highlight was walking home from Portsmouth and through the New Forest, being greeted by two very excited small grandsons.

Mike Osborne



Picture 2 An hour down in to Lebana (Picos de Europa) but three hours more to fail to get up the other side and over the top



Present Pic

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Sun 6 Nov	Memorial Choir Concert	Ringwood Parish Church
Mon 7 Nov	First 'Titanic' Rehearsal	Poulner Church Hall
Fri 16 Dec	Choir Christmas Concert	Ellingham Church
Mon 19 Dec	Choir Christmas Concert	Trinity Church
Tue 20 Dec	Choir Christmas Concert	Ringwood Parish Church
Thu 12 Jan	Choir Rehearsals Resume	Trinity Church
Tue 10 – Sat 14 Apr	'Titanic'	Ringwood School Theatre

Choir News

The choir is in final rehearsals for the Memorial Concert for Chris. The programme will include much of the music which Ivy and Chris had selected for the Centenary Concert including a piece that Chris composed especially for the Centenary. We have two pianos and the very welcome addition of some of the brass section of the BSO. Graeme, our usual percussionist will be joined by two percussionists from London orchestras and we have a guitar player and a drummer. It is a fitting tribute to Chris that all these people asked to play at his concert.

The Parish Church seems large for a small town but on an occasion like this I wish it was bigger. So many people wanted tickets and we sold out so quickly that inevitably some were disappointed.

The Choir has also been rehearsing our Christmas concerts, 'RMDS Choir's Centenary Carols'. These concerts will be the last events of the RMDS Centenary year and we hope you will be able to join us at one of them. Ivy will be rehearsing the choir but we have invited a guest, Diane Williams, a close friend of Ivy and Chris to conduct the actual concerts.

The dates for these are:

FRIDAY Dec 16 at Ellingham Church

MONDAY Dec 19 at Trinity Church

TUESDAY Dec 20 at Ringwood Parish Church.

We look forward to seeing you there.

Anita Rosser

LOST

AN 18" SQUARE MAROON REFRIGERATOR BAG
BORROWED BY RICH AND AMY GILBEY TO
USE AT ONE OF THE BARBECUES DURING THE
SUMMER SHOW.

THEY CAN'T REMEMBER WHICH!

Rich's Mother, Maggie would like it back
so if you know where it is please phone

01425 476711

also

A Set of Four Scaffold adjustable feet

last seen in The Future at the Get-Out

Phone Peter A if you know where they went:

01425475886

Green Room Events

Belly Dancing Class - with a Burst Of Bolly and a Sizzle of Salsa! Sunday 13th Nov 2011, 3 pm – 4.30 pm. The Studio, The West Hants Club, Roslin Road South, Bmth, BH3 7EF - £10 each including tea/coffee & biscuits afterwards to register, please contact Jeannie Alvis jalvis@ntlworld.com or Tel: 01202 731945

Wine Tasting - Back by popular demand - Graham from New Forest Wines will be taking us on a wine discovery tour - featuring 10 of his most popular wines - Tickets £10 per person including some nibbles - don't drive home unless you use the spittoons provided! Sat 19th November from 7:30 pm at Greyfriars. Call text Andy on 07775 927992 or e-mail rmdsgreenroom@aol.com to book a place. More details on the Green Room website www.rmdsgreenroom.co.uk

The RMDS Titanic Quiz

The answers to all these questions are musicals, some well-known, others more obscure. Once you get a few, you'll start to get a clue to help you with the others. Good luck! *(Answers on p 11)*

- 1 A liberated woman in the 1920s
- 2 Fairy tales according to Sondheim
- 3 Who created this rock opera.
- 4 Tomorrow's cartoon strip character
- 5 From the film called 8 and a half
- 6 The G & S fairies take on the House of Lords
- 7 Blown in from the windy city?
- 8 Mack the Knife is at home here
- 9 Gives a firm hold in Baltimore
- 10 The truth is she never left them
- 11 Don't want to do this if you go to Vietnam
- 12 This one didn't go down with the Titanic
- 13 You're father smelled of elderberries...
- 14 Streisand's Broadway debut
- 15 Hottest joint north of Havana
- 16 Several actors have their hands in this musical
- 17 In England, The Glums



Three Present Pics



100 Not Out!

The Centenary Summer Show, *Past, Present and Future* was a fitting event for such an important year. The three sections were totally different and all had their very special and unforgettable moments. The audience, as always, had a great evening – Greyfriars was heaving every night including the Monday and their ‘favourite section’ was equally divided between all three.

The three production teams excelled themselves with some great ideas. *Past* was a salute to all those members who have gone before and included clever use of the revolve in showing snippets of past shows, the two world wars and a very moving slide show at the end which caused a good number of tears to be shed. Dave and Cindy certainly worked hard in their research of the *Past* and produced a fitting tribute. Moving right away from Ringwood and up to the West End for *Present*, Jenny and Poppy presented groups of songs from current London shows with some excellent singing and dancing from their well rehearsed team. There were also some very funny moments particularly from their male performers. Back to Ringwood and RMDs for Sheryle’s outrageous imagination as to what RMDs could be like in the *Future*. This was a riot! Noisy, way out, hilarious, stimulating and totally confusing for some, it caused a great deal of discussion and mirth and brilliantly completed the trio of great shows.

Greatly contributing to all three shows were the musicians who, over recent years, have been adding a bigger and more sophisticated sound which has enhanced each single section. Thank you Jonathan, Kevin, Stuart, and James, your drummers and other musicians, for contributing to such an extent with your talents. Also it has been very nice for us all to have you around.

ANNUAL DOG WALK 2011

The June Sunday selected for this year’s Dog Walk turned out to be about the wettest of the year and only a brave few made it to the High Corner for a comforting lunch. The Alvi were lone walkers but having “Rent-a-Dog”, Yasmin, they could return her home with a muffled “sorry she’s a bit wet”!

Although many regular attenders were unable to attend, a rescheduled walk was held on a lovely day in early September. The organiser hadn’t planned beyond lunch but fortunately Kate Saxton’s local knowledge gave everyone a beautiful walk through the forest with lots of swimming for the ten lively dogs. New boy on the block, Cody Bennett took an unseemly fancy to Iris Burley and chased her all afternoon but with no hope of ever catching her.

Jeannie Alvis



Answers to Titanic Quiz

- 1 T Thoroughly Modern Millie
- 2 I Into the Woods
- 3 T Tommy
- 4 A Annie
- 5 N Nine
- 6 I lolanthe
- 7 C Calamity Jane

- 8 T Threepenny Opera
- 9 H Hairspray
- 10 E Evita

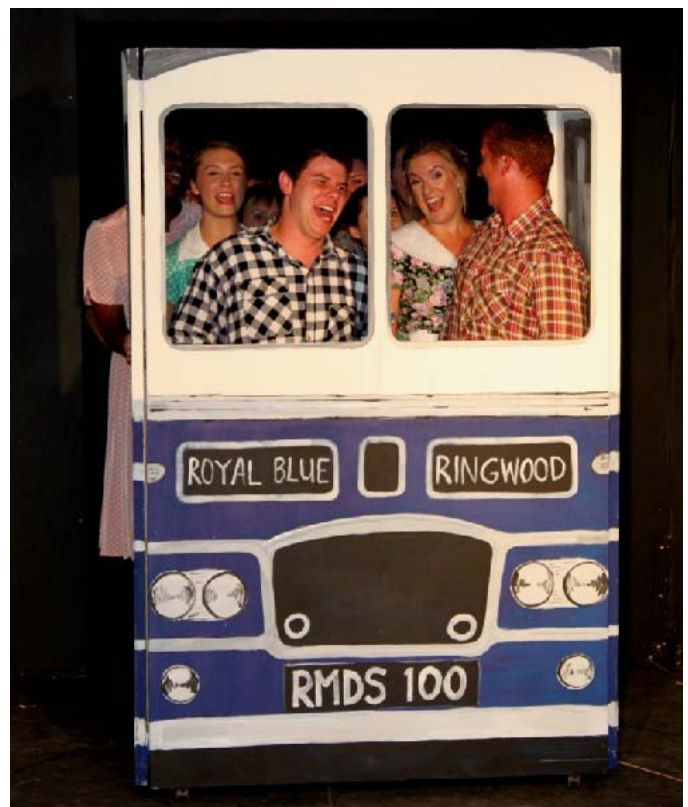
- 11 M Miss Saigon
- 12 U Unsinkable Molly Brown
- 13 S Spamalot
- 14 I I Can Get It For You Wholesale
- 15 C Copacabana
- 16 A Avenue Q
- 17 L Les Miserables



Three Future Photos



And Two More Past Pics



Grapevine

Seems like just a few weeks ago I was writing the last gossip column! Since then we've had the Centenary Summer Show and I've been scrabbling around trying to find slip-ups during the performances to describe in my column, with very little success. It seems we are all becoming far too professional and almost perfect in our performances. Either that, or we are all becoming too old and unable to remember anything that happened more than a week ago!

We are rich in new grandparenthood this time...

· Anne and Graham (Gray Gray as he likes to be called) welcomed their first granddaughter, Sophie in November 2010. She arrived in time to see her big brother Alfie start school. Apparently, he already has a gold star on the behaviour chart!

· Sam and Maggie were phoned in the middle of a choir rehearsal in September to be told that their daughter, Maria had given birth to a little girl, Eden. A little sister for Noah.

· Nigel and Jeannie have twin granddaughters born in July, Freya and Molly. Dear little girls who are very different both in looks and temperament!

· Bern and Jo have also become grandparents to twins, Stanley and Peggy, born in September. They live in the adjoining house so Grandma will, no doubt, be on babysitting duty! Bern won't have time between Burley Panto rehearsals.

· Val has just become a grandma in the last few days. Her son, Toby and his wife have just had a little boy called Arthur.

· Dave and Cindy are waiting for their daughter, Louise to give them a little granddaughter very soon. Cindy has flown out to be with Louise in El Paso, as her husband is serving in the forces in Iraq and won't be home until Christmas.

· Our new RMDS member, Ben obviously enjoyed his week in 'Past', even when he found his rucksack to be particularly heavy during the last performance of 'Pack up your troubles in your old kitbag.' This probably had something to do with the fire extinguisher which one of the cast had put in his bag. An accident I'm sure.

· Is it just me or is anyone else slightly worried about the ease with which some of the men carried out their role of air hostess in 'Present?' It came very naturally to many of them I thought! We must keep an eye on the situation.

· None of us had a clue what 'Future' was about did we? It was great thought a typical Sketchley Extravaganza!

· I think we were all very impressed with RMDS rapping in 'Future,' weren't the 2 Chris's fantastic? However, I have it on good authority that Chris Duell didn't always sing the same words for each performance. What talent, to change the words to suit the audience!

· Talking of Chris Duell, some members of the society were having a meal in 'The Manor' at Burton last week. It was a quiet, sedate affair until they were approached by Chris who was celebrating her birthday with her family on the other side of the pub. She led the table in a loud rendition of "Happy Birthday" causing the other customers to stare speechless, anxious that she was going to make her way round all the tables! All in true Duell style!

· When discussing a planned trip to Ringwood's twinned town in Normandy, the choir was considering a possible programme which would suit the occasion. Derek suggested Beethoven's "Wellington's Victory!" That was just days before the memorable semi-final match between France and Wales in the Rugby World Cup, I'm not sure Derek will want to go at all now!

· I think Ivy is preparing the ladies early for next year's production of 'Calendar Girls!' At a choir rehearsal last week she told them all to "stick out your busts to stop them getting droopy!"