



Milton Musical Society

MMS Newsletter March 2024

Chairperson's Update

Hello and how wonderful it is to be writing another message for everyone. Since our last newsletter quite a lot has happened including two wonderful productions. We staged Kipps - The New Half a Sixpence at The Regent in April of last year and although not as much of a success at the Box Office as we would have liked, it wowed audiences and critics alike. We then performed Departures at The Forest Arts Centre in November of last year and I must congratulate the team behind it – Olwen Adams & Tracy Knapp on a fabulous show that again the audiences loved. We have won Noda Awards and had Forest Picnics, Parties, and theatre trips galore... !!

Show wise we have so much to look forward to. With only weeks to go before we hit The Regent stage again, this time with the hilariously funny 9 to 5. The production is simply brilliant, and the amazing leads are backed by a wonderful cast, I cannot urge you enough to get your tickets!! We then move on to our Autumn show Once Upon a Time which will be held in November at The Forest Arts Centre. More information on the show, presentation evening, auditions and show dates follows.

As a committee we are always aware that what we do is more than just a hobby to some people and the friendship, support and social side of things is so important to us, so it is our plan to ensure that we continue to add events and get together to our calendars. On a personal note, I feel it is so important that Milton has that Family feel to it, we need to ensure we are welcoming, understanding, and inclusive whilst continuing to produce the high standard of productions that we are so well known for.

So, on that note let me Thank you all for your continued support and enthusiasm in ensuring that Milton continues to thrive and be successful.

Kirsti





Milton Musical Society

Treasurers Report

Greetings

I find myself in the unenviable position to advise that we finished the financial year (30 Sept 2023) with somewhat of a depleted bank balance. Sadly, this was due to the take up of ticket sales for Kipps, the New Half a Sixpence. The show was absolutely fabulous and we are bewildered as to why ticket sales weren't higher than they were, especially with all of the marketing undertaken.

In my report to the AGM in November I advised that to put on a Show at the Regent costs around £30k. Therefore, we have to work to a very tight budget in order to try to break even or make a small profit. Ticket sales are crucial for this and as a Society the stark reality is that we cannot afford another massive loss.

So, we look to you as Members and friends of the Society to support us - please, please, please book your tickets soon for our next show 9 to 5, the Musical. The Cast are working extremely hard as is the Creative Team to bring this iconic musical to you and you will not be disappointed. It is extremely funny and we have a very talented cast. As Co-Director and Treasurer it is a very nail-biting time, as you can imagine, because since the dreaded Covid ticket sales is generally very slow until the last few weeks. Therefore, if you could book your tickets sooner rather than later and invite everyone you know along it will certainly help, not only my nerves, but bring an absolute boost to the Cast and Society and even ensure we still have money to continue bringing these wonderful Musicals to you all.

Our Autumn Show – Departures – proved to be very successful – not quite a sell-out – but enjoyed thoroughly by the cast and those who came to see it and we did make a small profit. We have just heard that we have been nominated for an Award from NODA – so will keep our fingers crossed about that and will let you know how we do in June.

Later in the year we are bringing to you Once Upon a Time, a Musical Comedy. We are very excited to hear more about it soon.

Next April 2025 is going to be amazing as we bring the musical Sister Act to you at the Regent Centre. Our Creative Team will be working hard on this shortly and more information will follow.

Social Evenings are being arranged over the next few months, as social events but also for fundraising and I hope to see many of you there.

Thank you for your continued support.

See you soon,

Olwen Adams
Treasurer





Milton Musical Society

Upcoming Shows

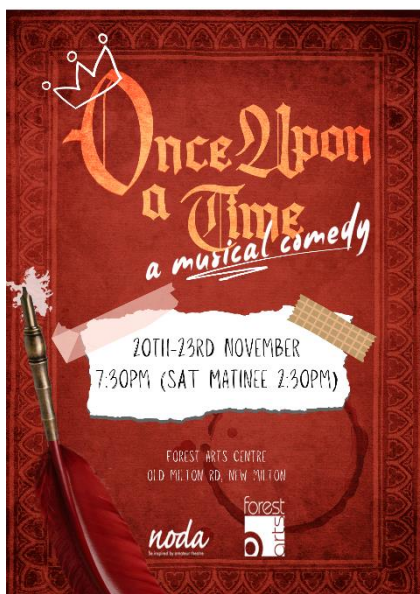
We are pleased to announce that our shows over the next year will be **'Once Upon A Time – A Musical Comedy'** at the Forest Arts Centre from 20th-23rd November 2024 and **'Sister Act'** at The Regent from 25th-27th April 2025. Due to rising costs of putting on a show, the committee have decided to remove Friday rehearsals for the first 6 weeks of each rehearsal period.

'Once Upon a Time- A Musical Comedy' is written by Emma Hardy & Kirsti Warne. Charlie Henry is Producer and Jo Kent as Musical Director. The show follows the lives of two vastly different groups – The all-good villagers of Old Nimlot and the treacherous Outlaw Villains. The story tells of friendships, feuds, loves won & lost and is the ultimate tale of good over evil. With music from Chicago, Oklahoma, Heathers, Waitress, Guys and Dolls and more, there really is something for everyone.

The information evening will take place at 7pm on Wednesday 27th March at Barton Methodist Church. Come along and find out all about the characters both good and evil and the plans and visions for the show. Auditions will take place on Saturday 25th May at Iford church and Show dates are 20th–23rd November at The Forest Arts Centre.

'Sister Act' will be performed at The Regent in Christchurch from Friday 25th-Sunday 27th April 2025. Again, due to rising hire costs of The Regent and only having the option to hire the venue for the whole day, we have had to come to the decision to cut down our hire days again and fit in more performances over the shorter hire period. The current plan will be that the get in will take place at 9am on Thursday 24th, Tech Rehearsal will happen at 4pm, then onto a full dress rehearsal at 7:30pm. Opening night will be Friday 25th in the evening. We will then have a matinee and evening performance on both the Saturday and Sunday. So please make sure you are available for all these dates before auditioning.

The Creative team is made up of Ellie Tripp and Jess Barras as Co-Directors, Kirsti Warne as Choreographer, Charlie Henry as Producer and Alastair Hume as Musical Director. There are plenty of parts available and we are planning to have a large cast. More details will be sent out later in the year regarding presentation evening and auditions.





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Social Updates

After a successful 'Departures' After Show Party and DVD night, it's only right that we start planning the socials for the next half of the year.

We have a few Saturdays booked in the diary to go and hand out '9 to 5' leaflets over the local towns. If you are free to help please contact Olwen to discuss locations and timings.

The '9 to 5' After Show Party is booked for Friday 10th May 7:30-11pm at Fawcetts Field Club. It will consist of a 2-course buffet and live entertainment from 'Acoustic Jukebox'. Tickets are £25 per person and everyone is welcome. Please give your names to Ellie Tripp and make payment by Saturday 20th April.

We have been asked to perform at the Christchurch Food Festival on Sunday 26th May from 2-2:30pm and the Highcliffe Food Festival on Saturday 8th June at 1:40pm and 3:10pm. We plan to do a picnic on the green between the 2 Highcliffe sets as a social. Please let us know if you are free so we can pull together a set list. We will have 2 Friday rehearsals on the 17th and 24th May at Tracy Knapp's house.

We shall be doing a group social to go see BMT's 'The Little Mermaid' at The Regent which is 29th May-1st June, date TBC. Tickets are £21 full price and £19 concession.

Also to see P&P's 'Oliver' at The Lighthouse in Poole 5th-8th June, date TBC. Tickets are £22. More details will follow soon.

We are looking to book a quiz night for all MMS members, friends and supporters on Friday 5th July (Location TBC).

We then have the annual picnic in the forest taking place on Sunday 11th August. Please put all these dates in your diary!





Milton Musical Society

Committee Updates

We have had a few committee changes over the last 6 months. Firstly, we would like to thank Tracey Alford who stepped down at last year's AGM after serving over 12 years doing membership and socials for all her hard work and commitment. Holly Dervan then kindly stepped into this role after stepping down from Secretary which was taken over by Ellie Tripp. However, due to unforeseen circumstances both Holly Dervan and Peter Hall have decided to step down from the Committee with immediate effect. Please join us in thanking them for all their hard work and commitment to the roles and society over the last 18 months. We hope you continue to keep taking part in the shows and socials.

Because this has left us with 2 vacancies within the committee and unable to wait until the AGM, we decided to co-opt Charlie Henry into a Technical role and Tara Hastings into the Socials & Events role.

Please join us in welcoming Ellie, Charlie and Tara to the committee, they will be a great asset.

Please find below all details of the current committee members along with their job roles and new email addresses that they can be reached on. So, if you ever have any queries, please feel free to drop any of us an email or message.

Role	Committee Member	Email Address
Chairperson	Kirsti Warne	chairperson.mms@hotmail.com
Vice Chairperson & Social Media	Jess Barras	vicechairperson.mms@hotmail.com
Secretary	Ellie Tripp	secretary.mms@hotmail.com
Treasurer	Olwen Adams	treasurer.mms@hotmail.com
Socials & Events	Tara Hastings	
Costumes	Tracy Knapp	
Technical & Props	Rob Hardy	
Technical	Charlie Henry	
NODA Rep	Marie Coltman	
President	Alison Peach	

AOB

As always, we are always on the look out for Directors, Choreographers and Musical Directors. So please let us know if you are ever interested in putting your name forward. Show suggestions always welcome too.

We also want to be doing more fundraisers to raise funds for the society to enable us to carry on and continue to do what we love most. The rising costs of everything is making us be much more conscious over the bank account.

Please reach out if you have any suggestions or would like to organise anything.

Lastly, thank you for your continued support with the company and here's to a successful 2024.