

Notes



Welcome to the Social Team's first edition of notes and as is usual with anything to do with your ever loving Social Team it's a joint effort!

Well it's been a frantic few months for what has to be one of the most committed musical theatre companies in the country. Following on from the massive success of "Buddy", which was incredibly well received by audiences and critics alike we moved into nothing short of "Mission Impossible!" Our mission (at least those of you mad enough to accept it) was to commit to a crazy rehearsal schedule, learn an impossible number of songs and dances, and emerge like the true professionals we are with a production that demonstrates just what the company is made of in its 75th Year. Well folks, what can I say? At the point of going to press we have just completed an all singing, all dancing extravaganza that only the members of SCMTC could quite pull off. What a totally shattering but fab week we had and the comments from our audience showed they enjoyed it just as much as we did! (More on that further on in this issue.) It was a great opportunity to wander back down memory lane but also to do what SCMTC is so good at - pushing the boundaries and challenging ourselves with new material. There were so many fabulous performances from people. (Phil Bourne in a Basque and stilettos is something I will never forget and probably neither will Deb!!!)

This year we have made lots of new friends, new members include Kim Grewel, Dan Anketell, (new Dan) Jeff Cows, Rachel Skett, Osa Orchard, and Mike Bentley and welcomed back old ones, Roy Wheeler, James Pugh and of course there has been the return of the legendry Phil "Willy" Bourne. Hope we haven't missed anyone out!

Also a welcome to our two newest Board Members, Mr Ed Hill and Mr K Dovey and a sad but fond farewell to one of our oldest (!) Julie Callaghan whose help and support over the years has been so valued, she has been made an honouree member of the society. Well done Julie.....

It's been a very busy year so far and with the up and coming social events (see inside) the Christmas concert (rehearsals begin Friday 31st) and the start of a new Monday night dance class (beginning Monday 3rd Nov.) will continue to be so. Our company is a great company because its members make it so. Happy 75th SCMTC and here's to many, many more!!!

Next... A Chairman's thoughts.....

The editor has asked me to write a few notes on the last six months from my perspective.

What a six months it has been! We went into BUDDY with high expectations for a successful show, but the performances far exceeded anything we could have imagined. The standard of the show put it up there with the best that I have seen from the Company in the last 32 years (yes, it's that long ago since I joined SCMTC). Our audiences loved it and it did well at the box-office. Most importantly, I think everyone in the show enjoyed the week tremendously. It was a great start to our 75th year.

Sue and I enjoyed the summer Ball, which was a different type of evening to most of these sorts of occasions – we loved the 'singing waiters' - and I liked having the time to talk to many of our members that I don't see very often, not being a regular at rehearsals.

To come bang up to date, only last week I saw 2 performances of a show that I am amazed came together so well, having seen it in rehearsal several times. BACK TO BROADWAY was a show that was always going to be difficult to pull off to our expected high standard. Short rehearsal period, summer holidays, many more numbers to be learned than there are in a 'named' show, all contributed to an extremely busy and hard rehearsal period. But what a result! For an old fogey like me, where you all get that energy and dedication from is amazing. The show proved once again that SCMTC can 'come up with the goods' whatever the difficulties.

So, it has been a most enjoyable 6 months for me – two excellent productions and the Ball. I'll see you at rehearsal for the Christmas Concert, when you can give me my own private performance, before Sue and I fly south on 4 December, to return in early April. Then you will be almost ready to perform THE FULL MONTY. Now that's going to be very interesting...

To those of you that I don't see at rehearsal, All Good wishes for Christmas and the New Year from Sue and me.

Roger Dykes (still only ACTING Chairman)

May only be 'acting' but puts in a stirring performance year after year.....

Social Events Review 07/08

Hi

What a fab year we had last year with loads of events run that were fully supported by current/past members family and friends

Few of the highlights being:

The famous Glynn Adams Car Rally (won by the 'hill conglomerate'),



Barr Beacon bonfire with Norm and Lumpy having real concerns with health and safety..... not.....

Children's Christmas party with the lovely Mr Dovey showcasing SCMTC talents on stage with the DJ

Boxing Day walk which was a couple of days after Boxing Day but who says we can't be flexible

Miss G's surprise 40th.. Blink and you would have missed the David Tenant kissogram..

Butlins 2007..... And the unforgettable 97 pairs of primark pyjama run on a late night Christmas shopping!!!



The Lynne Hill choreographing spectacular with a memorable performance by Mr Hill.. 'He's behind you...'

The Long Whinge Walk in March with tears every 10 mins and that was from the men!!!



However the second attempt was a lot more successful...!!



Lisa's Pamper evenings.. Although originally designed for the ladies, the men caused such a fuss so they were cordially invited to the next evening but failed to show... (Sorry Steve!!)

The charity D Concert where a smiley Steph almost choked over the attempt of Mr Lumsden and Mr Cowdrill trying to find their final note (any note guys.. just pick one and stick to it) for Bui Doi.

Sutton Weekend Washout camp in Shell Island.... However the sight of Lisa and Leon's gazebo being secretly (!) walked across two camp fields will stay with us all for a long time....



And of course the most recent event the Annual Sutton BBQ with the bruises from the three legged race still visible to all within earshot of the contestants!!!..And I don't know how they did it but the Hills won again....



Finally an aftershow party that will be remembered for a long time to come and all for the wrong reasons!!!!!!



Still to come for this year:

Snow white and seven dwarves 27/11/08

Who can resist seeing our old mate Mike Bentley as a dwarf (no comments please.. sorry Steve)

Trip to splashlandings Christmas treat 6/12/08

And this year it's not just for kids... a full day at splashlandings in the tropical environment water park where you can swim in the warm water outside when snowing.. all together now... ahhhhh...

Christmas Park Walk 27/12/08

SUTTON PARK 11.00 AM an excuse to avoid that turkey stew....

Dinner dance 17/1/08

Barton arms dress(!) optional

Booking forms should be completed asap and passed to MaggiJackson

We will Rock you 22/7/09

Future ideas

- *Butlins 09*
- *Cycle run and picnic on the Tissington trail*
- *London theatre trip to see Wicked*
- *Day trip to the seaside!!*

Finally a Plea:

Thank you for supporting us over the past year and if you have anything that you want the team to organise for the company and friends then please let us know .

We have enjoyed organising events but as you can imagine some events require a lot of organising and each member of the team will take the lead or have a certain role, so if you could just please bear this in mind and

- *respond to the lead team member for that event as per their request in the email (it's very difficult to manage 30 or so individuals who either advise us at rehearsal or pass the message on to a member of the team who hasn't got responsibility for that event)*
- *Pay the member of the team who has financial responsibility for that event on time...*
- *Reply within the time requested particularly when budgeting or purchasing is involved !!*
- *Obviously people cancel or need to change numbers and this is not a problem but if again you could just advise the team member responsible*

Cheers

Your ever loving social team

Em Paula, Mags Steve Lumpy.Xxx



FAMILY NEWS

Lisa and Leon get married 31/1/2009

Osa is having a baby (for all you unobservant men out there who hadn't noticed!!)

Ed and Emma finally moved into their new house (message from Norman...'looking forward to the housewarming party em'.....)

Claire and Karl get married next year

Paula has finally managed to get rid of the kitchen carpet after the aftershow party .. Nice ploy Paula... we know it was you who secretly started the food fight!!!!...

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

November

Mark Skett - 10 Nov

Alison Gibbon - 18 Nov

Roy Wheeler - 28 Nov

December

Phil Bourne - 1 Dec

Sally Adams - 12 Dec

Kimberley Ray - 16 Dec

JJ - 22 Dec

January

Boo.... Nothing to celebrate

February

Norman Waldron - 23 Feb

Kim Grewal - 25 Feb

Rachel Skett - 26 Feb

Ashley Atterbury - 28 Feb

March

Warren Albutt - 5 March

Ed Hill - 15 March

If we have missed anyone, then please let us know..... not that we need an excuse to celebrate but it's always nice to have one!!!!!!

AWARDS FOR 2008

NODA

Heather Adams - 30 years

Helen King - 25 years

Mark Tuckwell - 20 years

Jane Pryer-Smith - 15 years

Celeste Clark - 10 years

Rachel Gibbon - 10 years

Honorary Life Member award

Julie Callaghan

Dear SCMTC Members

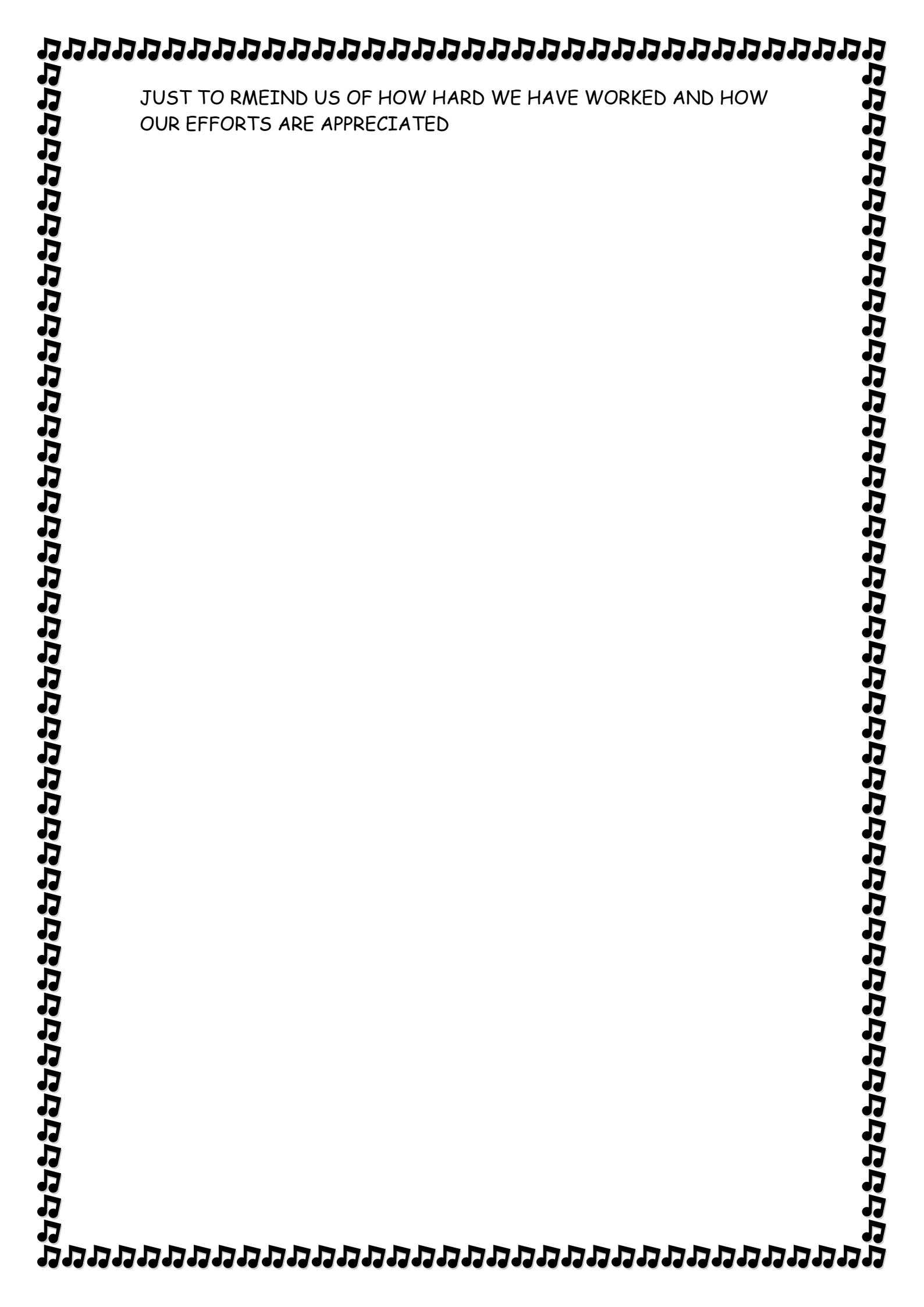
If you attended the AGM in July then you will be aware that I was presented with an Honorary Life Membership. You may also have noticed that my "acceptance speech", which I cannot remember, was probably incoherent and garbled!!!!this was due to shock!

So I would like to take this opportunity to give a belated "acceptance speech" if I may!

My first experience of amateur theatre was when my sister and I were picked as the Siamese twins in Sutton Operatic's (as SCMTC was known then!) 'The King & I' way back in 1974. Following that show my sister and I were among the few children to be chosen to do the next main show, 'My Fair Lady'. Little did I know then that my destiny was to return to Sutton Operatic many years later, after reading an advert in the local papers asking for new members to perform in 'Grease' - this would be the start of a fantastic journey for me. Along with many newcomers I passed my audition and was thrilled to then audition for the lead of Sandy and get it! After finishing 'Grease' I felt a fully fledged member of Sutton Operatic, joining the chorus for the next show of 'My Fair Lady' plus accepting the job of Minute Secretary. Over the next 25 years I have had the great privilege to perform in many shows but, due to family commitments, have worked more behind the scenes in later years. I am proud to have been the originator of this newsletter NOTES, producing the first one, and over the continuing years I have been involved with advertising, promotions, fundraising events such as our infamous Easter Egg Run, sponsored sings, patrons, social and prompt. Although, after 25 years as Minute Secretary, I have stepped down I am not going away and will be, hopefully, around for some time! Finally, I would just like to thank the Board for giving me this prestigious award and I hope members of SCMTC think I have earned it!! I am very proud to be associated with this wonderful company and I will continue to be your number one fan for many years to come!

Love Julie Callaghan x

AND FINALLY.....



JUST TO REMIND US OF HOW HARD WE HAVE WORKED AND HOW
OUR EFFORTS ARE APPRECIATED

On Broadway is a fine place to be

Fiona Langton

THEATRE REVIEW:
Sutton Coldfield Musical Theatre Company's *Back to Broadway*



This is a toe-tapping, tonsil-tickling triumph! Sutton Coldfield Musical Theatre Company's *Back to Broadway*, directed with panache by Sally Baxter, is a superb ensemble effort, designed to show off the abilities of an extremely talented hunch of people.

They are currently celebrating their 75th anniversary, so instead of putting on just one musical they decided on a compilation show, featuring favourite song and dance routines from famous musicals of the past, from old favourites like *Singin' in the Rain* to modern classics like *Les Misérables*.

Therefore, this is a show of showstoppers, with the performers eager to outdo each other and able to cherry-pick the songs and dances best suited to their abilities. All the audience has to do is sit back and enjoy the fun.

Almost all the singing is of an incredibly high standard, helped by a fine six-piece band as accompaniment. Ed Hill, for example, has a gorgeous voice and, with the company gave a grin-inducing account of *Sit Down You're Rocking the Boat*, from *Guy's and Dolls*; and towards the end of the show I was knocked out by Nic



Brown's chocolate-voiced rendition of *Fine Fine Line* from *Avenue Q*. Similarly, Helen Gilfoyle gave *There Are Worse Things I Could Do* from *Grease* a real emotional tug. Paul Lumsden's *If I Were A Rich Man* came close to topping Topol, and Mark Skett excelled with *This is the Moment*.

Bravo, too, to choreographer Maggie Jackson. Heidi Creswell and the company gave an incredibly sexy rendition of *All That Jazz* from *Chicago*, with Heidi singing out like a trouser as she was thrown in the air and generally manhandled by her male supporters. The extracts from *West Side Story* were terrific as well -

you couldn't help smiling as the dancers were mambo-ing and sashaying around.

Seasons of Love was charmingly done. It comes from a show called *Rent*, which I have never seen but will miss if it comes up in the future, having heard this.

And the tap dancing *42nd Street* opening of the second half was so assured, it was just showing off, really.

Which, of course, is what this show was all about.

Back to Broadway is at Sutton Coldfield Town Hall till Saturday, October 18. Box office: 07856 537168.



That's all folks

SEE YOU IN 2009

Em. Mags Paula Steve and Lumpy

