

# MUSICAL NOTES

Number 24  
August 2008

The Newsletter of Newtown Musical Theatre Company

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## Message from our Chairman

Dear NMTC & friends,

So, summer is rolling by and the promise of long, warm days & iced G&Ts in the garden yet to be enjoyed.

NMTC brightens our days.

A successful production earlier this year of *Calamity Jane* has been and gone. Congratulations to all who took part, on stage and off, to create such an enjoyable show.

Now rehearsals for *Princess Ida* are well under way with great-sounding singing ringing through the hall. Floor work has begun with scenes set, choreography emerging and principals taking their leads in fine voice, well-supported by the talented chorus.

*Princess Ida* is developing with some hilarious scenes which, hopefully, audiences will enjoy as much as those playing them.

Men as women? Yes, but this is far from pantomime.

Dancers in wheelchairs? Yes. This was Jackie, shortly after her foot operation. Having rehearsed one of her scenes, scooting around, self-propelled, she took her place in one of the dances, skillfully avoiding others who might otherwise have needed their own foot ops!

Our congratulations and thanks must go to Kat for conveying her interpretations of the libretto; to Emma for ably taking up the baton and rehearsing the musical numbers; to Sarah for her expertise at the piano and leading some warm-ups; and to all members of the cast for their commitment and talent.

We must not forget those who regularly give their time and generosity for providing refreshments during rehearsals.

Make sure you encourage audiences to come and see this lesser-known G&S operetta. It promises to be a fun night out.

Chris Clarke

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## Fundraising Cake Stall

Sylvia and Betty have agreed to help man the stall. All donations for sale will be gratefully received. Please bring them to the rehearsal on Friday 29th August.

Environmental Health regulations state *we must:*

have all goods wrapped and sealed;

label items containing nuts and wheat;

and *we must not:*

have fresh cream cakes (butter cream is okay);

any goods normally needing refrigeration eg. quiches, meat pies, custards.

We can sell eg. sponge cakes, bara brith, scones, Welsh cakes, fruit pies, chutney, jam, pickled onions.

All proceeds will go to NMTC funds.

## 25th Anniversary Dinner – Silver Ball

Friday 10th October at 7pm for 7.30pm – sit down meal with entertainment – singing, dancing, ceilidh, disco – until the early hours.

This is our rescheduled event which we hope will attract large numbers in all their finery, including wearing something silver.

Letters will be posted to past and present members, patrons, musicians, MDs and directors. Please return your applications to Emma by the end of September.

Let's make this a fun evening to remember celebrating 25 successful years of NMTC. Keepsake gifts for all!

## Diary 2008

30th Aug	Cake stall in Bear Lanes
31st Aug	BBQ at Jackie & Ian's (Tregynon)
4th/5th Oct	<i>Princess Ida</i>
10th Oct	25th Anniversary Dinner (Elephant & Castle, Newtown)

Please note that the Hallowe'en party has been cancelled.

## Cast for *Princess Ida*

### The Girls

Princess Ida . . . Karen McMurdo  
 Lady Psyche . . . . . Jane Breese  
 Lady Blanche . . . . . Jackie Tittley  
 Melissa . . . . . Bev Southall  
 Sacharissa . . . . Freya Rowlands  
 Chloe . . . . . Brenda Wood  
 Ada . . . . . Frances Western  
 Violet . . . . . Vivica Flynn  
 Minerva . . . . . Jill Peters

### The Boys

King Hildebrand . . . . Ian Hogg  
 Hilarion . . . . . Gareth McMurdo  
 Cyril . . . . . Phil Evans  
 Florian . . . . . Richard Jones  
 King Gama . . . . . Andrew Bond  
 Arac . . . . . Doug Skilton  
 Guran . . . . . Les Skilton  
 Scynthius . . . . . Colin Wood



Website:  
[www.newtownmtc.co.uk](http://www.newtownmtc.co.uk)

## NMTC Committee

Chair	Chris Clarke
Vice Chair	John Harbron
Secretary	Emma Breese*
Treasurer	Ian Hogg
Business Manager	Jackie Tittley
Publicity Manager	Frances Western

*Committee Members:-*

Karen McMurdo  
 Harriette Lane

(\*responsible for social events)

### Non-Committee Posts:-

Librarian	Jill Peters
Archivist	Chris Clarke
Newsletter Editor	Ruth Hendry
Website Editors	Emma Breese Harriette Lane

## The Duck Race

NMTC members, family and friends gathered in Hafren Forest on Sunday 3rd August 2008 for a fundraising duck race.

The winning ducks were :

1st	24	Irene Harbron
2nd	37	Pat Scull
3rd	94	Marlene Smart



A number of us enjoyed a picnic beforehand (as did the midges!) and the sun did come out occasionally.

The ducks all put up a good show and they all crossed the finishing line, some with a little assistance after the winners had completed the course.

Thanks to everyone who helped to sell the ducks and to those who turned up on the day to help. A special thanks to those who were in the river getting wet and eaten by midges!

We made an excellent profit of £251.

## Cast for *Oliver!*

(Adult roles only: children's roles including Oliver, Dodger, Charlie and Fagin's gang to be auditioned in the autumn.)

Mr Bumble . . . . . Phil Evans  
 Widow Corney . . . Brenda Wood  
 Bill Sykes . . . . . Gareth McMurdo  
 Nancy . . . . . Hannah Wilson  
 Fagin . . . . . Mike Clarke  
 Mr Sowerberry . . . Andrew Bond  
 Mrs Sowerberry . . . Gaenor James  
 Mr Brownlow . . . . . Ian Hogg  
 Mrs Bedwin . . . . . Jackie Tittley  
 Dr Grimwig . . . . . Les Skilton  
 Noah Claypole . . . Dylan Francis  
 Sally . . . . . Peggy Bound  
 Old Lady . . . . . Janette Hawkins  
 Nightwatchman . . . Penry Thomas

Some cameo roles, plus Bet and Charlotte remain to be cast

Thank you to all who auditioned. Performances were all of a very high standard and it was a very difficult job for the panel.

The panel particularly commended all those who auditioned for the part of Nancy, each of whom performed at more than a high enough standard to be cast in the role.

## *This is YOUR newsletter!*

Please give any contributions of ideas, articles and photos to Ruth.



### Help needed!

We were very sad to hear that Debbie is unable to help us with costumes for *Princess Ida* for health reasons.

Please let us know if you could help us with the construction of one or more costumes (only requires basic sewing skills).