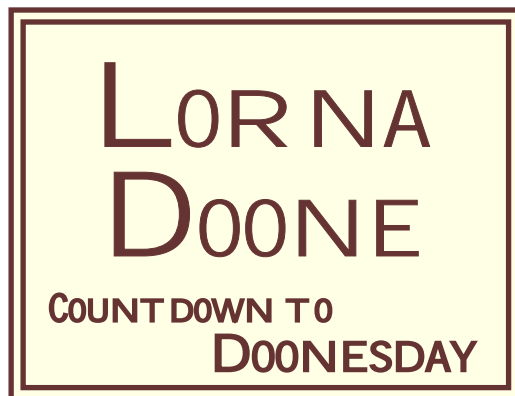


MUSICAL NOTES

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The Newsletter of Newtown Musical Theatre Company



Cast for *The Musical Lorna Doone*

Auditions were held for The Musical Lorna Doone in late April and early May and - after a slight delay due to various coughs, colds and one appendectomy - the directing team announced the following cast.

THE RIDDS (the goodies)

John Ridd 2 Richard Jones
Annie Ridd 2 Emma Breese
Lizzie Ridd 2 Keri Hopwood
Mother Ridd Ruth Hendry
John Ridd 1 Oliver Jones
Annie Ridd 1 Cathryn Jenkins
Lizzie Ridd 1 Ruth Jenkins
Betty Muxworthy Janette Hawkins
Uncle Reuben Huckaback Mark Ward
Ruth Huckaback Joanna Western
Tom Faggus Tony Orme

THE DOONES (the baddies)

Lorna Doone 2 Hannah Wilson
Lorna Doone 1 Aimee Breakwell
Carver Doone John Bowen
Counsellor Doone Andrew Bond
Sir Ensor Doone Mike Clarke
Gweny Carfax Jodie Breakwell
Charlie Doone Rob Jones
Phelps Doone Elliot Hopkins

AND THE REST (some good, some bad)

Captain Jeremy Stickles Phil Evans
Baron de Wichelhalse John Harbron
Squire Marwood Jonathan Davies
Judge Jeffreys Ian Hogg
Clerk Ellen Wallis
Sally Snowe Freya Rowlands

Parson Gerald Jones
Farmer Tring Penry Thomas
London Women . . . Jackie Tittley, Fran Western
London Ladies . . . Chris Clarke, Vivica Flynn
Soldier Jorge Bowen
Pageboy Katy Collins
Prologue Dancers Jorge Bowen
. Alice Crush, Sian Esslemont
. Elliot Hopkins, Rob Jones
. Oliver Orme

Another Programme Victory

The programme for last autumn's production of *Cinderella* won first prize in the 'standard programme' competition of the NODA Western Area. Well done to everyone involved, especially Bev Southall (illustrations), Roger Banks (photographs), Paul Gregory (photographs), Andrew Bond (publicity officer/photographs) and Ruth Hendry (programme design/layout).

This follows previous success with the programmes for *Guys & Dolls* (first prize - 2006) and *Me & My Girl* (second prize - 2004) and *La Vie Parisienne* (1995).



WIZARD OF OZ

At the recent vote on the next spring show, it was decided that we will do the musical *Wizard of Oz* in spring 2012. Theatr Hafren are very pleased with this "bums on seats" choice!

Are there any budding Directors and MDs for The *Wizard of Oz*? Please contact Jackie on 01686 650955 if you are interested.

The Night of 1000 Voices

On Sunday, 2nd May, 2010 Mike and I returned to the Royal Albert Hall in London, not only to celebrate my birthday, but to join the audience in a thrilling musical theatre bonanza introduced by Aled Jones.

In May 1999 we, along with Penry, Ian, Jackie, Pauline Furnell and Noelyne Hammond, had been privileged to sing in the Choir of 1000 Voices, the first of its kind, and in celebration of NODA's centenary.

We were the only representatives of the NODA Western Area and, as such, prior to the performance day had to make our own arrangements for rehearsing the music we had been provided with.

The actual day began with a Showboat journey on the Thames as part of the opening ceremony. Later, armed with our copies, voices and t-shirts, and with excited trepidation, we joined the host of singers for a pre-concert rehearsal of song and movement.

What a joyous experience that was! With the City of London Philharmonic and the mighty Albert Hall organ as our accompanists, we were put through our paces.

With Gloria Hunniford leading the introductions, the stars of the West End and Broadway amazed and enthralled us with songs from the musicals - *The Lion King*, *Phantom of the Opera*, *Les Mis.*, *West Side Story* to name but a few.

There was a guest appearance from Howard Keel (what a man!) to celebrate his lifetime achievement in musical theatre. (For our younger members who may not have

heard of him (shame on you!) it was he who first sang "Oh! What a beautiful morning" from *Oklahoma!*, instantly finding fame.)

This year Mike and I sang along with thousands of others, led by the Calendar Girls, in a rousing rendition of "Jerusalem". Dancing and singing along to the "Time Warp" & "We Are the Champ-zions" with Brian May of Queen making a guest appearance - the Hall erupted.

Philip Quast, now ten years older and, like the rest of us, somewhat larger and with a few more lines, returned to give a breath-taking performance of "Stars" from *Les Mis*. Joy of joys!

With too many stunning performances to mention, we left on a high (nothing to do with the earlier champagne!) and wondering if NMTC would like to organise a trip to London next time.

The Night of 1000 Voices returns to the Albert Hall. It is not only hugely exciting and enjoyable but it also opens our eyes to what makes a performance fabulous.

We amateurs aspire to perform to the best of our ability. We can learn so much from watching great artistes with their skills, energy and connection with their audiences.

Some weeks ago I had been in email contact with the "Sing Live UK" director for details of how we could participate in the choir. Unfortunately the cost of membership and travelling to Leeds and Manchester for rehearsals was prohibitive.

I did, however, ask if he had ever considered bringing such an opportunity to the Wales Millennium Centre to broaden the scope of the choir which, unlike 1999, now embraces choristers from the US. I did



not receive a reply.

Maybe WNO MAX in Cardiff, with whom Mike and I have performed in their community choir, could follow up the idea. Who knows? NMTC might not only form a group to sing but to fill a coach for a day out in London.

This year's concert was in aid of Leukaemia and Lymphoma Research.

Chris Clarke

Yes, we *are* there again - a group from NMTC singing alongside hundreds of others - yes - in The Albert Hall!

This time six of us have rehearsed with Llanwnnog Choir to join in the Big Chorus performance.

We sang Fauré's Requiem (some of us sang this with the Montgomery festival choir in May) and we also performed a world première of Carl Jenkins 'Gloria'. This was specially commissioned for this event: how about that - two world premières this year! Aren't we a gregarious bunch in NMTC?!

Perhaps Chris's suggestion of NMTC forming a group to visit London will be the next event!

Jackie Titley

Diary 2010

Wed Jul 28th	Concert Party meeting at the Chapel 6.30pm
Sun 8th Aug	Bag packing at Morrisons - please help if you can, this is very lucrative!
Sat 21st Aug	Trip to see Chicago in Aberystwyth
17th to 19th Sept	Weekend rehearsal for <i>The Musical Lorna Doone</i>
8th & 9th Oct	<i>The Musical Lorna Doone</i>
Sat 9th Oct	After show party at Newtown Football Club
Sat 27th Nov	Tea dance at Theatr Hafren
16th Dec	Xmas dinner at Lakeside

Photoshoots for *The Musical Lorna Doone* and further concerts are still to be arranged. Please check the NMTC website for updates and further events: www.newtownmtc.co.uk.

Newtown Carnival

NMTC took part in Newtown Carnival on Saturday 12th June 2010 and won first prize in the group competition.

Congratulations to everyone who took part and many thanks to all those who put in so much hard work organising everything - including costumes and placards for dozens of the different shows we have done through the years.



Placard carriers from left to right: Gareth McMurdo (*Me & My Girl* 2004 - played Bill Snibson), Andrew Bond (*Kiss Me Kate* 2003 - playing Fred/Petruchio), Karen McMurdo (*Calamity Jane* 2008 - played Calamity Jane), Erryl Cruse (*Magic of the Musicals* 2004), Fran Western (*Cinderella* 2009), Penry Thomas (*South Pacific* 1994), John Bowen (*Lorna Doone* 2010), Hannah Wilson (*Oliver!* 2009 - played Nancy), Jodie Breakwell (*Guys and Dolls* 2006), Kat Bond (*The Mikado* 2003 - played Katisha), Adele Hopkins (*My Fair Lady* 2002). Photos also featuring Aimee Breakwell, Siân Esslemont, Vivica Flynn, Phil Evans, Les Skilton, Ellen Wallis and Chris Horner - the coach from *Cinderella* 2009!

Les Herbiers Trip

Several NMTC members were among the party that went to Newtown's twin town Les Herbiers

in the French Vendée: Jill Peters, Jackie Titley, Ian Hogg, Kat Bond, Fran Western, Erryl Cruse, Gerald Hughes and Les Skilton. A good time was had and there are suggestions of an NMTC visit.



Have you visited the NMTC website lately?

www.newtownmtc.co.uk

NMTC Coffee Morning

A coffee morning was held by NMTC on Saturday 3rd July at the Methodist Chapel.

It was great, although the town was empty that morning so we didn't have as many punters as we hoped. BUT, as usual, NMTC members and the visitors that did come had a thoroughly great time. Our waitress/waiter outfits were just the ticket and will certainly be used again.

Sarah Astley-Davies serenaded us on the piano with a varied programme of songs, and - as we enjoy singing - it was inevitable that some of us joined in the singing. Thanks Sarah.

The Methodist Minister called in to see how we were doing and was very impressed with the atmosphere and our use of the Chapel.

Strawberry teas and home made cakes were the order of the day, with the waitresses doing a grand job - they even had tips, which swelled the takings of course.

A big thank you to all who attended, made cakes, provided prizes and helped on the day and with preparation. A special thank you to Erryl who oversaw the event very competently. We are suggesting another similar event, perhaps in the autumn, so listen out for that.

Welcome to New Members

We are pleased to welcome Judy Burch who is taking part in *The Musical Lorna Doone* and, at the time of writing, we are hoping to be soon welcoming a new member of the male Doone chorus!

NMTC Committee

Chair	Jackie Titley
Vice Chair	Frances Western
Secretary	Erryl Cruse
Treasurer	Ian Hogg
Business Manager	Peggy Bound
Publicity Manager	Andrew Bond

Committee Members:-

Jonathan Davies
Les Skilton
Bev Southall

Non-Committee Posts:-

Librarian	Jill Peters
Archivist	Chris Clarke
Newsletter Editor	Ruth Hendry
Website Editors	Gareth McMurdo Jonathan Davies

(assisted by Sarah Astley-Davies)

Child Protection Officer Les Skilton

Healthy Sounds Concerts

Our "Healthy Sounds" concerts in May and June 2010 were a huge success, both for our audiences and for the Company's funds.

We sang at the residential homes Llys Hafren and the Rhallt in Welshpool, then at Hope Church for their meal club and finally at Plas Cae Crwn in Newtown. We received a fee to cover expenses for three of these concerts, from Ty Cerdd's scheme "Healthy Sounds!", which provides funding for local voluntary musicians to perform at hospitals and residential homes.

We sang a variety of songs from the shows, plus singers' own personal favourite songs, including "If I were a rich man" (*Fiddler on the Roof*), "Moon River" (*Breakfast at Tiffany's*), "Getting to know you" (*The King & I*) and "In the service of the King" from our upcoming performance of *The Musical Lorna Doone*.

The heat in those rooms was tremendous, but it didn't stop us, oh no ... as they say, "*the show must go on*".

We have had very positive feedback from the homes, and indeed some more requests to do other similar concerts. We propose certainly two more Healthy Sounds concerts and hope the funding is still there for us to do so. We were unable to go to the Hafan Day Centre this time but propose going in early August.

Again thanks to all concerned, and particularly to Sarah for being the MD for the concerts.

Concert Party

We are going to discuss forming a concert party group so come along to the meeting at chapel at 6.30pm on 28th July 2010 if you want to find out more.

Kathleen Mary Arthur

We were saddened to hear of the passing away on Friday 7th May 2010 of our patron Mrs Kath Arthur at the age of 92.

Several members of NMTC attended her funeral at All Saints Church on 20th May 2010 and heard tributes from her niece, from curate and past NMTC (NOS) member Esther Yates and from Jan Fursier on behalf of Newtown Amateur Dramatic Society.

Kath came to Newtown at the end of the Second World War to take up a teaching post in the PE department in Newtown and was a stalwart of the Amateur Dramatic Society for over sixty years, as performer, director and President. She was also a patron of NMTC for many years and a long-standing member of the choir at All Saints.