



Pirate Productions

NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2007

Do you remember the film "Carry on, Sergeant"? It was the first of the Carry On films, starring most of the usual suspects. The plot revolves around the attempts of Sergeant-Major Grimshawe (played by William Hartnell, later the first Doctor Who) to instill some measure of efficiency into a bunch of National Service recruits. In one scene, he stands in front of the platoon and calls for a volunteer. As one man, the entire platoon takes a smart pace backwards, leaving a hapless "volunteer" (Charles Hawtrey, if I remember correctly) isolated. Ladies and gentlemen, in the context of editing the Piratical newsletter, I am that volunteer. (Before you ask, I am not old enough to have done National Service!)

Anyway, the current Treasurer of Pirates, also variously known as "er indoors", and "She Who Must Be Obeyed" (SWMBO), suggested that I might be interested in taking over the editorship of the Newsletter from a well-known computer-wallah, bon viveur and moustache-cultivator. I know much better than to ignore suggestions from SWMBO, so here I am.

The Annual General Meeting was held at Gasperich Parish hall on Monday 15th October. This was the first time we had attempted to use the hall without André, and was a qualified success. The main problem was that we didn't get into the building soon enough, so that the drinks weren't properly chilled; that apart, the social aspects of the meeting went well enough. The minutes of the meeting will be available in due course, and the composition of the committee for the new Piratical year can be found on the back page.

The cool drinks problem was rectified by the time of the Table Quiz, which was mesmerically masterminded by that erudite exemplar of excogitation, Steve Preston. As always, a good time was had by all, and our table even managed to get the prize we were aiming for (3rd, since you ask, because it was home-made choccies).

Please take careful note of the "Dates for your Diary" page, particularly if you fancy yourself as a performer in a Victorian/Edwardian music hall, which is being directed by Pamela, and will include, all being no worse, a presentation of "Cox and Box", by F.C. Burnand and Arthur Sullivan. And even if you see yourself as a performer rather than a techie, it will still be well worth attending the NWTC backstage workshops on Saturday.

Yours piratically,

Alan

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

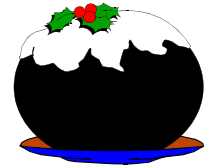
<i>When</i>	<i>Who</i>	<i>What</i>	<i>Where</i>
25th November 2007	NWTC	Backstage workshop	T'Scheier, 42 rue Pierre d'Aspelt, Aspelt
6th December 2007	Pirates/ Kiwanis	St Nicholas	Centre Pédiatrique, CHL
15th December 2007	Pirates	Christmas singalong	Choralhaus, Schuttrange
16th December 2007 3.00 p.m.	Christmas Tree Singers	Christmas Carols	Place d'Armes
13th January 2008	Pirates	Pre Music Hall social	Pam'n'Alan's, Haller
23rd – 26th April 2008	Pirates	Old-time Music Hall	Parish Hall, Gasperich

SMALL ADS



Pam's Pantry

Home-made Christmas Puddings and truffles
Phone 356339 or email pamela@sarumlux.net
for further details



Contributions to the Newsletter

This is your newsletter! Please feel free to email Piratical notes, jottings and any interesting ephemera to alan@sarumlux.net. Or you can send printed material to

“Sarum”, 2 Henerecht
L-6370 Haller

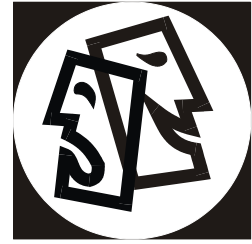
The next newsletter will be going out in early December, deadline probably Saturday 15th. Dip your pens and get writing!

Deirdre Velcro

Deirdre is currently vacationing somewhere warm. I am not at liberty to say exactly where, but it is near a bar, with lots of hunky young men in attendance. Her agent assures me that she has had many interesting new experiences about which to write, and that we should be privileged to receive a column in the new future. Watch this space...



New World
Theatre Club



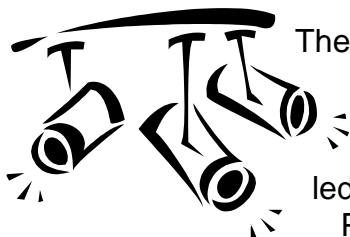
BACKSTAGE WORKSHOPS

Lighting and Make-up

Have you ever thought about helping out backstage at the theatre? Now is chance to learn some of the skills that NWTC [and Pirates! – Ed] needs.

Saturday November 24th 2007

T'Scheier, 32 Rue Pierre d'Aspelt, Aspelt
(from Luxembourg, head south through Hesperange and Alzingen to Frisange. At the lights in Frisange, turn left to Aspelt. In Aspelt turn left onto rue Pierre d'Aspelt. The restaurant T'Schier is on the right just before the church.)



The lighting workshop will begin at 10 a.m. and will be led by John Brigg and Anthony McCarthy. The make-up session will start at 2 p.m. and will be led by Colette McCormack and Christine Probst. Both workshops are open to



anyone over 16 and are free of charge. We are getting the room free, so you are expected to have lunch at the restaurant (choice of three menus, including a vegetarian option),

Numbers are limited, so please book your place now by contacting Angela Milne on 23 66 01 92 or pmilne@pt.lu

A MESSAGE FROM BLIGHTY...

Oops apologies for not writing in time for the last letter (although daddy did an excellent job!) but... well I'm a drama student at the start of the year. There were parties to go to, old friends to meet, excitingly named drinks to drink, new friends to make, new students to terrify... you know the score, I'm sure.

But you'll be pleased to know that I did well with my broadsword and quarterstaff fight and this year have moved on to two new weapon systems – broadsword and shield and military sabre. It took me a while to get into the swing of sword and shield as I tended to want to do everything with the sword and left the shield hanging limply on my arm but now I'm used to it and swinging it in people's face, much fun! The sabre is heavy with the weight halfway up the blade so it has a tendency to get heavy on the wrist after a while but it makes up for that by being very swishy and swashbuckly!

Oooh and any Clairefontainers this year may be interested to know that Mitch (who did something or other, looks a bit like an urban pirate) is one of my new teachers! He's taking us through different mask disciplines and working some more on animal studies. He's brilliant! His lessons are just so open and carefree and a great laugh too.

Also doing Elizabethan studies this term. The first lesson we had was to give us a taste of ye olde theatre. We were given our parts and cues only, told when and where to enter and made it up as we went along. It was so much fun, the best opening act of Titus Andronicus ever I believe! Well probably not but we've done quite a bit of work on that play (I love it, it's so gory!) and I've decided I'd love to play Lavinia, there's so much for her to do! But now we're moving on to Marlowe which should be fun.

And we're doing fencing sabre which is a lot more fun than general fencing with the foil because in foil you can only stab but in sabre you can cut and whack, especially on the head which is great for a reaction. Oh and we have to sing duets soon so me and my friend Matt are going for Therapy from Tick, Tick Boom! I absolutely love that song so here's hoping we'll do it justice!

No films or shows to review for you this time but that's because I brought myself a brand-spanking absolutely beautiful broadsword instead! It's amazing and very pretty. I'm bringing it over at Christmas so you can all get a chance to admire it when I use it to beat my way through the crowds to the glühwein.

Oh and dad mentioned something about a panto in the works? I think you should strap dear old daddy in a fat suit, give him hideously neon dresses and let him be the dame. It'd amuse me and hopefully all of you, and I think he'd quite enjoy it...

...I tend to use oh, ooh and and a lot don't I? It's because I'm so excitable and writeable and I've just had a whoole packet of Rainbow Drops all to myself! Full of yummy E-numbers and sugar and they're neon!

Speak soon

Claire
xxx



Old-fashioned actress



Modern actress



International Christmas Singalong and Party

Pirates' annual Christmas Singalong will take place on Saturday, 15th December from 7.30 pm at the home of the Chorale Ste Cécile Schuttrange, 165 rue Principale, Münsbach (exit 11 off the Luxembourg/Trier motorway, turn left towards Münsbach, straight ahead at the roundabout, and the Choralehaus is on the right a couple of hundred metres or so further on, just beyond a very useful car park in front of the Cultural Centre and next door to Restaurant Grec Mythos.



This year there will again be an international theme to the evening. Bring along seasonal specialities typical of your home country, and perhaps a song or two. There'll be carols and other Christmas music available for all to join in – and, of course, no Piratical event would be complete without a bar, with drinks at very modest prices!



For further information contact Pam Carlisle (356339 or pamela@sarumlux.net) or any member of the committee.

A NOTE ABOUT MUSIC HALLS

As you know, Pirates' next show will be a Music Hall. This will take place in the Gasperich Parish Hall from 23rd to 26th April 2008.

The music halls, a quintessentially British entertainment, flourished during the latter half of the 19th and the early part of the 20th century. They were variety shows, including dancing, monologues, perhaps a short melodrama or musical play and of course songs – solos, duets, barber-shop groups, Christie minstrels (if you're very PC, don't ask), choruses and so on. The whole evening would be compered by a Chairman, who introduced each act in his own inimitable style, often with a great deal of alliteration and many polysyllabic words. (For a mediocre example, see the fourth paragraph of the editorial.)

It's several years since Pirates last staged a Music Hall, and many newer members, particularly those not originating from the British Isles, may well be wondering what on earth they'd be letting themselves in for if they became involved in the 2008 show. So, in order to whet your appetites, a Music Hall social afternoon/evening will be held on Sunday 13th January 2008, from 3.00 pm at the home of Pam and Alan Carlisle in Haller. There'll be an opportunity to watch Pirates' previous Music Halls, staged in 1985 and 1996 – a trip down Memory Lane for some members! – and generally socialise, refreshments being available throughout.



“Cox and Box”, a one-act G&S-style operetta, will form part of the programme of the Music Hall. This will be directed by Pam Carlisle, with Liz Turner at the piano. “Cox and Box” has a cast of three – two baritones and a tenor – and lasts about 25 minutes. Rehearsals for this part of the Music Hall will take place on Monday evenings, and begin in the New Year. At the social on 13 January, there'll also be an opportunity of viewing a professional recording of “Cox and Box”.

If you are interested in auditioning for “Cox and Box”, or would like further details, please contact Pam on 356339 or email pamela@sarumlux.net as soon as possible, and in any case before 8th December. And if you've any ideas for something you'd like to perform, or be involved with, in the Music Hall – songs, dances, monologues – Pam would be delighted to hear your suggestions.

WHAT WIKIPEDIA HAS TO SAY...

Music hall in London had its origins in entertainment provided in the new style saloon bars of public houses in the 1830s. These venues replaced earlier semi-rural amusements provided at traditional fairs and suburban pleasure gardens such as Vauxhall Gardens and the Cremorne Gardens. These latter became squeezed out by urban development and lost their former popularity[1].

The saloon was a room where for an admission fee or a higher price at the bar, singing, dancing, drama or comedy was performed. The most famous London saloon of the early days was the Grecian Saloon, established in 1825, at The Eagle (a former tea-garden), 2 Shepherdess Walk, off the City Road in north London. According to John Hollingshead, proprietor of the Gaiety Theatre, London (originally the Strand Music Hall), this establishment was "the father and mother, the dry and wet nurse of the Music Hall". Later known as the Grecian Theatre it was here that Marie Lloyd made her début at the age of 14 in 1884. It is still famous these days because of an English nursery rhyme, with the somewhat mysterious lyrics:

Up and down the City Road
In and out The Eagle
That's the way the money goes
Pop goes the weasel[3].

Other such "song and supper" rooms included Evan's in Covent Garden, the Coal Hole in The Strand, the Cyder Cellars in Maiden Lane, Covent Garden and the Mogul Saloon in Drury Lane.

The music hall as we know it developed from such establishments in the 1850s and were built up in and on the grounds of public houses. Such establishments were distinguished from theatres, by the fact that in a music hall you would be seated at a table in the auditorium and could drink alcohol and smoke tobacco whilst watching the show. In a theatre, by contrast, the audience was seated in stalls and there was a separate bar-room. A strange exception to this rule was the Britannia Theatre, Hoxton (1841) which somehow managed to evade this regulation and served drinks to its customers. Though a theatre rather than a music hall this famous establishment later hosted music hall variety acts. It was destroyed by enemy action in (1940).

MEMBERSHIP FORM

This form should be completed in the case of new members or in order to amend the details for existing members.

Name :

Address :

Telephone number (home) :

Telephone number (work) :

GSM (Handy) :

Email address :

Nationality :

Would you like to receive the Newsletter in electronic form via email?

YES / NO

Do you agree that the above contact details may be included on a contact list, circulated to members on a regular basis?

YES / NO

Date and Method of payment for first annual subscription :

Subscriptions are due on an annual basis, payable in September each year. Please see the back page of the Pirates' Newsletter or the Pirates' web site (www.pirates.lu) for current rates and payment details.

Please return this form in electronic format to the Membership Secretary.

