



Pirate Productions

NEWSLETTER NOV/DEC 2008

*Christmas is coming, the geese are getting fat,
Please to put a penny in the old man's hat.
If you haven't got a penny, a ha'penny will do,
If you haven't got a ha'penny, a farthing will do,
If you haven't got a farthing, then [complete as you wish].*

Once again the world turns and we approach the Saturnalia. Once again the shops are full of stuff you won't realise you don't need until you get it home; the malls throb with the sound of bastardised Christmas music (as opposed to the bastardised stuff they serve up the rest of the time), and everyone rushes to buy, buy, buy until the shutters come down on 24th December.

However, there are a few events that stand out against the background of tawdriness; chief among these is, of course, our production of "Side by Side by Sondheim" at the Château de Bettembourg, 28th — 31st January. Your editor, equipped with a shiny new digital SLR, was hoping to have a few pictures of the rehearsals currently in progress to whet your appetite, but circumstances have conspired against him, so you will have to make do with the director's pen picture on page 3.

Unfortunately, the world première of Dafydd Bullock's "Requiem for Jan Palach", on 29th January (see page 5) clashes with "Side by Side", but, unless you are directly involved in the show, you can get to hear some amazing music that no-one, except the composer and those of us in the choir, have ever heard before.

It is now traditional (I think two years constitutes the beginning of a tradition) for St Nicholas to visit the Kannerklinik in the company of Voices International, the Kiwanis and New World Theatre Club — see page 5.

And don't forget the concerts given by Voices International — with four different dates and locations, there's really no excuse for missing them.

Yours piratically,

Alan

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

<i>When</i>	<i>Who</i>	<i>What</i>	<i>Where</i>
6 December, 2.45 p.m.	Kiwani/ VI/PP/ NWTC	Visit of St Nicholas	Kannerklinik
6 December, 7.45 p.m.	VI	“Christmas All Round”	Bonnevoie Church
7 December, 5.00 p.m.	VI	“Christmas All Round”	Koerich Church (near Steinfort)
7 December, 6.30 p.m.	ACL choir	Advent Carol Service	Konvikt Chapel, Luxembourg
13 December, 7.30 p.m.	VI	“Christmas All Round”	Cruchten Church
14 December, from 3 p.m.	Pirates	Christmas get-together	Chez Pam’n’Alan, Haller
14 December, 6.30 p.m.	VI	“Christmas All Round”	Église St Jean, Grund.
21 December, 6.30 p.m.	Cantique	Nine Lessons and Carols	Schuttrange Church
22–24 January 7.30 p.m.	ISL	Evening of one-act plays	ISL
24 January 8.00 p.m.	LuxPhil	New Year Concert	Conservatoire de Luxembourg
28–31 January 8.00 p.m.	Pirates	Side by Side by Sondheim	Château de Bettembourg
29 January, 7.00 p.m.		World Première of “Requiem for Jan Palach” by Dafydd Bullock	Église Paroissale, Limpertsberg
21–24 October	Pirates	30th Anniversary Show	Salle du Chapiteau, Esch.

SMALL ADS

Order your Christmas Puddings now!

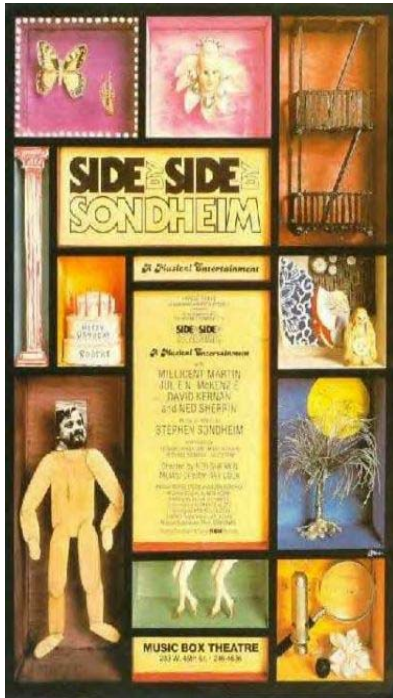


Pam's Pantry

Pam Carlisle is now taking orders for traditional, home-cooked Christmas puddings.

*Call 35 63 39
or email
pamela@sarumlux.net
for more details.*

SIDE BY SIDE BY SONDHEIM



The Director writes:

As December draws ever nearer the cast of *Side by Side by Sondheim* are gearing up for a few weeks' intensive rehearsal before the Christmas pudding beckons [See the Pam's Pantry entry on page 2— Ed.]. With 30 songs already under their belt, from next week we will be starting to stage the numbers at Gasperich and with a bit of luck, and a lot of perseverance, the bones of the show will start to take shape. Our talented pianists are frantically tickling the ivories and wondering how on earth to get those 52 notes into one bar of music... but well, that's Sondheim for you: notoriously difficult to accomplish but so easy to listen to!

Pam has already received nearly 40 reservations for the Saturday night, so you need get in there fast! We can guarantee a truly entertaining evening with some wonderful songs and, of course, a few



surprises. Call Pam on 35 63 39, or email sidebyside@sarumlux.net.

CHRISTMAS GET-TOGETHER

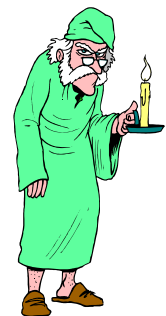


For the last couple of years, Pirates have had an evening “Christmas singalong” during December, in the premises of the Chorale St-Cécile de Schuttrange. Because this year it has been found impossible to find a suitable evening slot, it has been decided to have a Christmas “open house” at Pam’n’Alan’s place in Haller on Sunday 14th December from 3.00 p.m. until whenever the last stragglers can be persuaded to go home.

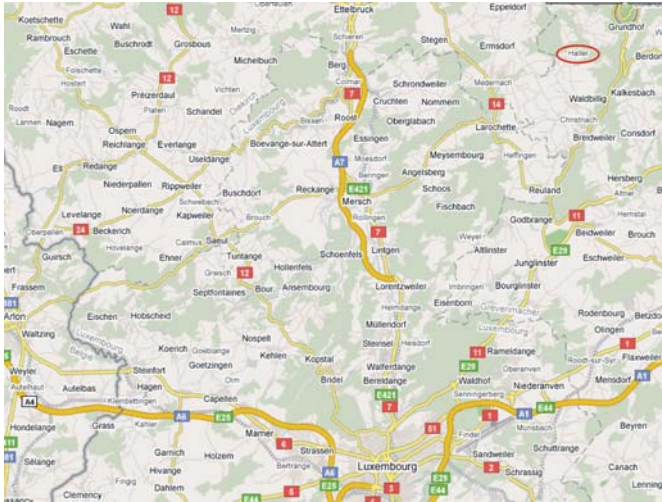
Directions to Haller are on the next page.

The boss has just told me that I ought to be more light-hearted. (Dances merrily.) SO: please come to our open house, any time you like! The usual refreshments will be provided! (Ho, ho, ho!) Glühwein will also be on offer, and there will be many opportunities to sing merry Christmas songs. Deck the halls with boughs of holly, Ding dong merrily on high, etc. Merry japes, however, will be frowned upon.

Bah Humbug!

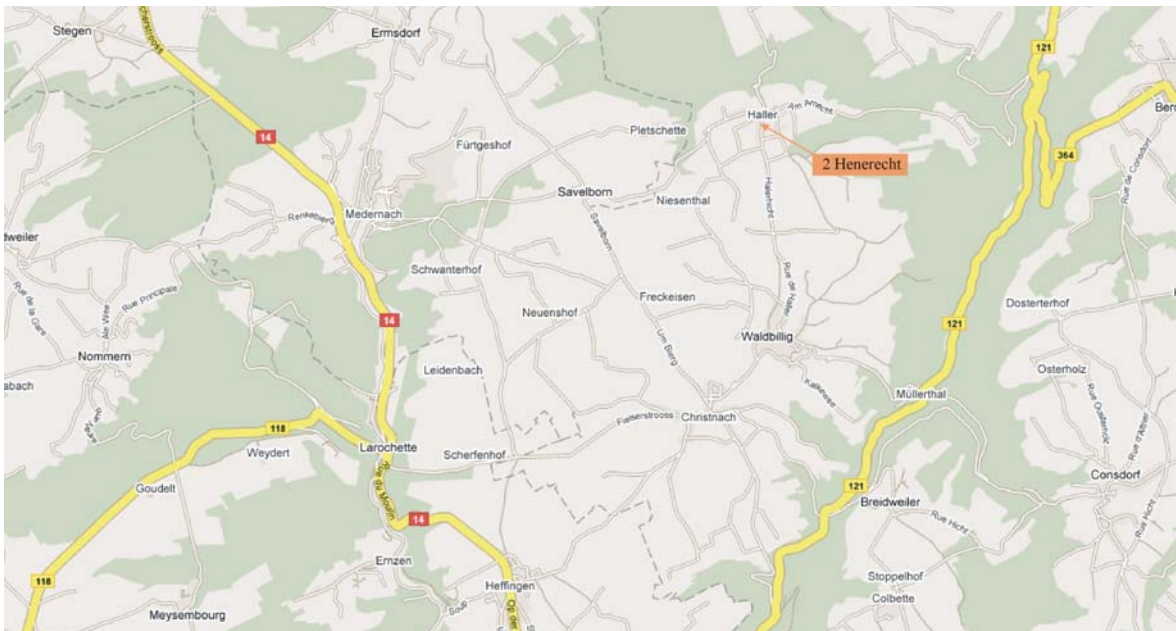


HOW TO FIND PAM'N'ALAN



Haller is identified by the red ellipse at the top right-hand corner of the map at left. Head out from Luxembourg City as though going to Echternach. Go through Junglinster and turn left at the top of the hill by the RTL transmitting station. Follow this road through Blumendall and Reiland to Heffingen. (If you are using satnav, it will probably tell you to turn right just after Blumendall, to follow the ErnZ Noir valley. Don't

do that, unless you really, really like a maze of twisty little passages, all alike.) In Heffingen, turn right to go to Christnach. At the T-junction in Christnach, turn right, then left after 200 metres. Take the first exit at the roundabout, then follow the road through Waldbillig to Haller. As you approach Haller, the main road turns sharp right; you go straight on, ignoring the "riverains only" sign. Be careful of the dead policeman! 2 Henerecht is on the left near the bottom of the hill. There may be space in the little carpark just downhill from the house.



ST NICHOLAS AT THE KANNERKLINIK

As in previous years, a group of singers and actors drawn from Pirates, the Kiwanis, Voices International and NWTC will join St Nicholas (alias our very own ex-gendarme, Chris Albrecht) in a visit to the Kannerklinik (part of the Centre Hospitalier). The timetable is as follows:

Meeting point: children's hospital

Meeting Time: 2.45 pm, Saturday 6th December.

Starting time for St Nicolas: 3.00 pm

Starting time for VI: 3.15 pm

If you would like to take part, please get in touch with Isabelle Thépin (contact details on the back page), to arrange costumes etc.

REQUIEM FOR JAN PALACH

Dafydd Bullock, a former musical director of Pirates, has been commissioned to write a requiem to commemorate the fortieth anniversary of the self-immolation of Jan Palach in protest against the Soviet suppression of Alexander Dubček's "Prague Spring". As the subject-matter might suggest, the music is uncompromising, but nonetheless approachable, as Dafydd's music tends to be. The last movement is a setting of some words daubed on a statue in Wenceslas Square, by a member of the Czech resistance. They lasted maybe twenty minutes before being erased, but, in those twenty minutes, someone took a photograph. "Do not be indifferent to the day when the light of the future was carried forward by a burning body". If you're not directly involved in "Side by Side", catch it you can.

LUXEMBOURG PHILHARMONIA

The Luxembourg Philharmonia was formed in 1979 from the group of instrumentalists that played for the American School's production of "The Pirate of Penzance", which gave rise to today's Pirate Productions. Even today, we still draw primarily on members of the orchestra for our pit bands.

The concert on 24th January in the Conservatoire de Luxembourg is devoted to works of the Danish composer Jacob Gade, and will include his famous "Tango Jalousie", used in many films including "Death on the Nile". An evening of light classical music, guaranteed to send you home with a smile on your face.

Looking further ahead, the orchestra will celebrate its thirtieth birthday with a performance of Beethoven's Ninth Symphony, the "Choral", in the Philharmonie on 4th July. Don't miss it!

JOINT SOCIAL EVENTS

From time to time, the committees of NWTC and Pirates meet to discuss topics of mutual interest. The minutes of the latest meeting, held on 24th November, will be published in due course, but I can reveal that it was felt that members of each club should be invited to the other's social events. For example, Pirates are welcome to attend the NWTC's "Meet and Greet Happy Hours". Check the NWTC web site at <http://nwtc.lu/>.

And of course, we hope that many NWTC folk will attend the pre-Christmas bash at Pam'n'Alan's place on 14th December.

COSTUMES

We (and our New World friends) are still looking for somewhere to store the costumes. There are one or two possibilities in view, but we haven't yet found the perfect place. If you know of anyone who has for rent a space of 60 to 80 square metres, reasonably accessible and not too far from Luxembourg City, please tell us!

BOOKS APPEAL

We have been asked by a member of the Kiwanis to pass on the following request.

A member of the Kiwanis went to Romania with her husband who is the "gouverneur européen", which means he helps European Kiwani clubs to develop. There she met the president of a Kiwani club who is the head of a school of 3000 students aged from 6 to 18 and also teaches English. It seems that the previous head of the school burned all the [English] books for political reasons. The new head would therefore like to set up a new library, and Kiwani members are trying to get English books from anywhere they can and will deliver them to the school in April 2009.

If you haven't already given away all your surplus books (e.g. to the International Bazaar's book stall), please consider this appeal. Contact Isabelle Thépin (address on the back page) for more information.

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, with a bit of luck, be going out just before Christmas, deadline probably Monday 22nd. Sharpen those quills and get writing!

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.

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SUBSCRIPTIONS

Subscriptions are due on an annual basis, payable in August. Subscriptions for 2008/2009 have therefore been due for some time! Fees due for the different categories of membership are as follows:

Individual:	25 Euro
Family:	40 Euro
Junior/Student:	10 Euro

The appropriate amount should be paid by virement to Pirates' account with Dexia/BIL – account number LU51 0022 1561 0680 0000 – Pirate Productions asbl, mentioning “Subscription 2008/9”, your name and the category of subscription required, clearly indicating your address so we can verify it on our Membership database.

Please ensure that the Membership Secretary is notified of any change of address or other details (a membership form is to be found in the Newsletter).

Only members who have paid their subscription will receive a Newsletter.

Please note that the cast and crew of all Pirates' shows must be fully paid-up members, otherwise they will not be covered under Pirates' personal accident insurance and will therefore not be able to be involved in shows.

Pirate Productions asbl - R.C.S. Luxembourg: F665 - Website : www.pirates.lu
Bank account : BILLULL : IBAN LU51 0022 1561 0680 0000