

CROWTHORNE
MUSICAL
PLAYERS



Fiddler on the Roof

WILDE THEATRE
South Hill Park Arts Centre, Bracknell

21st to 25th May 2013

www.cmp-berks.org.uk

CROWTHORNE MUSICAL PLAYERS

FIDDLER ON THE ROOF

Based on Sholem Aleichem stories
by special permission of Arnold Perl

Book by JOSEPH STEIN Music by JERRY BOCK

Lyrics by SHELDON HARNICK

Produced on the New York stage by Harold Prince

Original New York stage production directed and choreographed by
JEROME ROBBINS

This amateur production is presented by arrangement with
JOSEF WEINBERGER LTD. on behalf of
MUSIC THEATRE INTERNATIONAL of NEW YORK

Director: Lucy Seymour

Musical Director: Nick Austin

Original choreography reproduced by Erin Hope Pharo

Lighting Designer: Michael Brenkley

noda

Serving amateur theatre since 1899

CMP is Affiliated to the National Operatic and Dramatic Association

Welcome...

Welcome to this performance of *Fiddler on the Roof*. We are delighted to welcome Lucy Seymour back to CMP as Director, and Choreography is once again in the safe hands (and feet!) of Erin Hope Pharo. This show is momentous in that it marks our final performances here with our Musical Director of 25 years, Nick Austin. Nick has been a tremendous inspiration to literally generations of CMP members (sons and daughters from our last performance of *Fiddler* in 1996 are Papas and Mamas in this one!) and we thank him for his dedication and inspiration, and wish him well in his future projects.

We are delighted to welcome several new members for this production, including some very young ones! *Fiddler* has acquired a somewhat undeserved reputation for being a gloomy show, but it has some lovely comic moments and, in the end, it is all about hope and new beginnings. We hope you enjoy the show and look forward to seeing you at future events.

CMP return to the Wilde Theatre: 11-15 March 2014

THE WITCHES OF EASTWICK

This year's CMP Autumn Show:

Times Of Our Life

25-26 October 2013

Morgan Centre, Crowthorne

Fiddler on the Roof is sadly drawing to a close, but our rehearsals for the Autumn Show will soon be underway.

When you think of Time and songs, the mind can go into overdrive, everyone can think of something relating to the subject. We will be making a journey through the past, present, future, seasons, hours and ages, throwing in a little dance and aiming to enjoy ourselves whilst entertaining our audiences.

With a diverse selection of songs, for chorus, solos, duets and group numbers, there will be plenty of opportunity for everyone to take part.

If you are able to commit to the rehearsals and are free the weekend of the 25th and 26th October, come and join us; you will be made very welcome.

Details on our website: www.cmp-berks.org.uk



CROWTHORNE MUSICAL PLAYERS. FIDDLER ON THE ROOF, MAY 2013

From l. to r. in nose order: Erin Hope Pharo, Nick Austin, Lucy Seymour, Mark Conolly, Christine Charlton, Chris Wood, Debbie Mann, Jon Kerr, Helen Nicholson, Roger Lansdown, Lucy Herd, Damian Thomas, Tasha Eden, John Caley, Mark Williams, Justin Ferrington, Catherine Hazell, Peter Winn, Simon Light, Elle Chapman, Angie Chitty, Ali Bagshaw, Thomas O'Connell, Tony Kershaw, Daniel Dyer, Tony Collins, Kate Light, Josephine Bennett, Hannah Bennett, Janet Winn, Sue Dyer, Amanda Whewell, Izzy Myers, Becky Adams, Helen Hallmey, Malcolm Winslade, Joe Cooper, Josh Waters, Melinda Bennett, Chrissy Pask.

Not pictured: Pat Chidgey, Morgan Ferguson, Nyck Moore, Gavin Robinson, Cat Simmonds, Josh Vince

Fiddler on the Roof

The Background and the Show

Fiddler on the Roof is the story of life in a small Russian village in 1905, when Russia was still an empire, ruled by Tsar Nicholas II, head of the dictatorial Romanov dynasty. While much of Western Europe was becoming industrialised, more free and democratic, Russia was still rooted in traditional ideas of absolute monarchy. In January 1905, a peaceful demonstration of workers was attacked by the Cossacks in a bid to assert the Tsar's authority. The atrocity led to strikes and riots - sailors on the battleship 'Potemkin' mutinied. Workers and soldiers got together and set up committees called Soviets to represent them. Thus the seeds were sown for the eventual downfall and destruction of the Romanovs in 1917.



Nicholas' administration sought to divert attention from its shortcomings by seeking a scapegoat and released a great deal of anti-Jewish propaganda which incited fear and hatred of Jews among many non-Jewish citizens, often leading to violence. The three-year period from 1903 to 1906 was a particularly terrifying time for Russian Jews, as one pogrom after another raged in Western Russia. As *Fiddler* begins, the people of Anatevka are receiving rumours of the Tsar's edict, which will shortly evict them from their homes. By the musical's end, the people of Anatevka are packed up, some moving to America, many others to Krakow (in modern-day Poland), for what they hope will be a new and better life.

The characters of Tevye the dairyman, his unimpressed wife, his five daughters and other dwellers in the village of Anatevka, first came to attention in the stories written in Yiddish by the popular fiction writer who called himself Sholom Aleichem (literally "peace be with you" in Hebrew). The stories appeared in various publications in Eastern Europe and then spread to America and elsewhere. In 1953 Arnold Perl, a long-time admirer of Sholom Aleichem and other popular Yiddish writers, put together a series of short plays under the title of *The World of Sholom Aleichem*. Its success encouraged Perl to bring out another play about Anatevka, in 1957, which he called *Tevye and his Daughters*. This prompted Joseph Stein to believe that the Tevye stories could be made into a musical, and *Fiddler on the Roof* was the result.

The original Broadway production opened on September 22, 1964 and ran for a record-setting total of 3,242 performances. Zero Mostel was the original Tevye and a young Bette Midler appeared as Tzeitel. The original West End production opened on February 16, 1967, at Her Majesty's Theatre and played for 2,030 performances. It starred Chaim Topol, (who would also play Tevye in the 1971 film adaptation and several revivals over the next four decades) and Miriam Karlin as Golde.

The musical's title stems from the painting "The Fiddler" by Marc Chagall, one of many surreal paintings he created of Eastern European Jewish life, often including a fiddler. The Fiddler is a metaphor for survival, through tradition and joyfulness, in a life of uncertainty and imbalance.



Cast Profiles...

Tevey – Mark Conolly

Mark's first show with CMP was their 1993 production of *Oklahoma!* in which he played the rascally pedlar, Ali Hakim. The acting bug having bitten, he went on to play a number of principal roles with CMP and our near-neighbours EBOS, including Professor Higgins in *My Fair Lady*, and Emile de Becque in *South Pacific*. Mark then moved behind the scenes and directed the next seven CMP shows at The Wilde, including last year's *Hello, Dolly!* He previously played Tevey in EBOS's 2000 production of *Fiddler* and couldn't resist the temptation of reprising the role, particularly as his Mum missed his performance last time round. This one's for you, Mrs C.!



Golde – Melinda Bennett

It's nearly 13 years since Melinda last performed in *Fiddler* here, playing the role of Hodel, and she is delighted to be working with Mark again, this time as her husband not her father! She has enjoyed performing with CMP over the past nine years. While playing Maisie in their 2004 production of *The Boyfriend*, her eldest daughter Hannah joined her at rehearsals in a baby sling and now she is on stage playing Bielke! She is thrilled to be performing with both her daughters in this production, as it is also Josie (her youngest's) first show. She would like to say a big thank you to husband Dave who has helped her to juggle the 'family logistics' to make it all possible. When not performing, choreographing or directing

musicals with CMP and EBOS, Melinda works part time Marketing for CGA Integration (specialist sound, light and video system integrators) and is Little Owl at 4th Crowthorne Brownies. She hopes you enjoy the show.

Tzeitel – Catherine Hazell

Catherine joined CMP in the middle of last year's *Hello, Dolly!* rehearsals, and was plonked straight in at the deep end as an energetic dancing waiter! From then on, she's absolutely loved being a member of the group, taking part in last year's autumn show and Christmas concert. She is so pleased to be playing Tzeitel, as she hasn't performed for 5 years, after the variety club she was a member of for ten years disbanded. She said "I've played tons of panto parts from the Fairy Godmother to the Wicked Witch of the West, but this is my first time performing as a principal on a 'proper' stage in a 'proper' theatre, so I'm equally excited and terrified at the same time! – I just hope I do the part justice"



Motel – Ali Bagshaw

Ali is very excited to be taking part in his first show with CMP. It is always nerve wracking walking into a new group and taking on a role in front of a crowd of (almost) complete strangers. This was made so much easier, however, by the fact that he could not have felt more warmly welcomed into the group and immediately felt part of it. Ali feels that the role of Motel has challenged his acting ability in particular, due to Motel's timid and submissive personality; traits Ali has difficulty drawing out of his own character! Despite this, it has been a most enjoyable role to play. Ali has spent the majority of his adult Amateur Dramatics "career" with Woodley Light Operatic society where his roles have included Dexter Haven in *High*

Society, Nathan Detroit in *Guys and Dolls*, Strephon in *Iolanthe* and Frederick in *Pirates of Penzance*. He has also played Alexis in *The Sorcerer* with the Savoy Singers. In case he is not kept busy enough with Musical Theatre, Ali performs as the front singer for the Basingstoke Concert Big Band.

Hodel – Cat Simmonds

Cat is a complete newcomer to musicals, with Hodel not only being her first major part, but also her acting debut. After having sung choral music for most of her life, Cat had a brief foray into barbershop music, competing with the Reading Barberettes in the 2007 national barbershop finals. However, she has loved musicals since a very young age and had always harboured a dream to perform in one. Having plucked up the courage to take the step out of a choir, she finally found her spiritual home with CMP when she joined them for their Christmas show in 2011 and was both delighted and rather surprised to be offered the part of Hodel. She now completely has the musical bug and is looking forward to many more performances with CMP, who she is hoping will put on a production of *Mary Poppins* before she gets too old to play the part!



Perchik – Josh Vince

Josh is performing his first exterior amateur performance with the company and hopes it certainly isn't his last. He has a keen ambition for the world of theatre, and despite not having got into university to study acting this year, he is being proactive. In October he shall be performing the much loved role of Lord Percy in *Blackadder 2* at the Hexagon for the Reading Comedy Festival, (only a small change of scenery from 1905 Anatevka!) He looks to carry on getting involved in all forms of acting, and hopes this can help lay foundations in terms of skill development, after working with such a fantastic company!

Chava – Tasha Eden

Tasha is excited to be taking part in her first production with CMP. Everyone has been very welcoming, especially after coming into the show late. Though it is not her first main role, it is her first speaking role for a few years, after being cast as a mute in her last show! She hopes you all find it as enjoyable to watch as it has been when rehearsing.



Fyedka – Jon Kerr

Jon is in his final year at Edgbarrow School studying Theatre Studies, as is Josh (Perchik). As part of their coursework they produced a pastiche of the Hitchcock film *Stage Fright* for which local reviews were "amazing".

In between rehearsals and appearing in this show, they will both be continuing with their studies for their exams in June.

Jon will then be going to East 15 Acting School for a three year BA (Hons) Acting and Community Theatre course.

Shprintze – Kate Light & Elle Chapman

This is **Kate's** first show with CMP, though not the first time on the Wilde stage. She has danced ballet with Allied School of Dance in *Movies in Motion*, and with Berkshire Arts Academy as part of the *Lift of Dance* Festival. Kate attends Garth Hill College, where she has performed in productions of *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *The Lion*, *the Witch and the Wardrobe*, *Bugsy* and *Oliver*.

Elle attends Sandhurst School and is a member of Wokingham Youth Theatre. She was in *A Matter of Life and Death* in March and is a member of Starmaker which is currently rehearsing for *Cats* which will be held at SHP in October.

Bielke –

Hannah Bennett & Isabella Myers

This is **Hannah's** second show with CMP having been in the chorus for their 2010 production of *Carousel* when she was six. She first 'trod the boards' aged just four in EBOS's production of *King & I*,

but this is the first show with both her sister Josie (6) and her mum, who is also playing her 'on stage Mama' Golde! Hannah studies Ballet, Tap and Modern at the Linda Butler School of Dance and she also enjoys writing stories, swimming, playing the piano and being a Brownie with 4th Crowthorne. This is **Isabella's** first show with CMP. She has enjoyed attending the rehearsals with her school friend Hannah. Isabella is sporty and enjoys gymnastics and synchronised swimming. She loves music, particularly ABBA, and she is learning to play the piano and cello.



*l. to r. Back: Kate Light, Elle Chapman
Front: Hannah Bennett, Isabella Myers,*



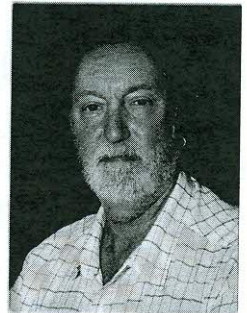
Yente – Angie Chitty

This is Angie's sixth show for CMP, having previously been in *South Pacific*, *Annie Get Your Gun*, *Oklahoma!* (Aunt Eller), *Carousel* and *Guys & Dolls* (General Cartwright). Angie is also involved with Crowthorne Amateur Theatrical Society (CATS), where she is Chairman, as well as performing and directing, usually pantos (last week of November - tickets available soon!). She has enjoyed rehearsing *Fiddler*, especially when she and Golde (Melinda) were helping Mark with his lines and both mimed the same movements – spooky? She is quite sad Nick will no longer be MD-ing CMP shows – she claims to be still a little bit scared of him and has not overcome this in all the years she has been with CMP!!

Lazar Wolf – Tony Collins

Tony has been on the stage now for over 55 years and has played many parts, from Daddy Warbucks in *Annie* to the Dame in several pantos, from farces like *No Sex Please, We're British* to Captain Hook in *Peter Pan*.

He has manned the barricades in *Les Mis* and performed magic and juggled in *Barnum*, both in the West End. This is Tony's first show with CMP and he is looking forward to playing Lazar Wolf and relaxing in the bar afterwards!



The Cast (in order of appearance)

TEVYE, the Dairyman

GOLDE, his wife

TZEITEL, his daughter

HODEL, his daughter

CHAVA, his daughter

SHPRINTZE, his daughter

BIELKE, his daughter

YENTE, the Matchmaker

AVRAM, the Bookseller

NACHUM, the Beggar

LAZAR WOLF, the Butcher

RABBI

MENDEL, the Rabbi's son

MOTEL, the Tailor

MORDCHA, the Innkeeper

PERCHIK, the Student

FYEDKA

SASHA

CONSTABLE

GRANDMA TZEITEL

FRUMA-SARAH

SHAINDEL, Motel's mother

YUSSEL, the Hatmaker

The FIDDLER

Mark Conolly

Melinda Bennett

Catherine Hazell

Cat Simmonds

Tasha Eden

Kate Light, Elle Chapman

Hannah Bennett, Izzy Myers

Angie Chitty

John Caley

Roger Lansdown

Tony Collins

Tony Kershaw

Chris Wood

Ali Bagshaw

Peter Winn

Josh Vince

Jon Kerr

Damian Thomas

Simon Light

Christine Charlton

Debbie Mann

Helen Nicholson

Gavin Robinson

Erin Hope Pharo

DANCERS: Justin Ferrington, Mark Williams, Josh Waters

CHORUS of Villagers: Becky Adams, Patricia Chidgey, Sue Dyer, Helen Hallmey, Lucy Herd, Nyck Moore, Chrissy Pask, Amanda Whewell, Janet Winn, Malcolm Winslade

CHILDREN: Josephine Bennett, Joe Cooper, Daniel Dyer, Morgan Ferguson, Thomas O'Connell

Scenes and Musical Numbers



ACT ONE. ANATEVKA, A RUSSIAN VILLAGE, 1905

Prologue

Tradition - Tevye and Chorus

Scene 1. The kitchen of Tevye's house

Matchmaker - Tzeitel, Hodel, Chava

Scene 2. Outside Tevye's house

If I Were A Rich Man - Tevye

Scene 3. Inside Tevye's house

Sabbath Prayer - Tevye, Golde & Chorus

Scene 4. The Inn

To Life - Tevye, Lazar Wolf, Sasha & Men

Scene 5. Street outside the Inn, later

Scene 6. Outside Tevye's house

Tevye's Monologue - Tevye

Miracle of Miracles - Motel

Scene 7. Tevye's Bedroom

The Dream - Tevye, Golde, Grandma Tzeitel, Rabbi, Frumah-Sarah & Chorus

Scene 8. Village Street, Motel's Tailor Shop

Scene 9. Outside Tevye's house

Sunrise Sunset - Tevye, Golde, Perchik, Hodel & Chorus

Wedding Dance

ACT TWO

Prologue

Scene 1. Outside Tevye's house

Now I Have Everything - Perchik, Hodel

Tevye's Rebuttal - Tevye

Do You Love Me? - Tevye, Golde

Scene 2. Village Street

The Rumour - Yente, Mendel, Avram & Villagers

Scene 3. The Railway Station

Far From The Home I Love - Hodel

Scene 4/5. Village Street, Motel's Tailor Shop, Some Months Later

Scene 6. A road

Chaveleh (Little Bird) - Tevye

Scene 7. Tevye's barn

Anatevka - Golde & Chorus

Scene 8. Outside Tevye's house

Sasha –

Damian Thomas

Damian is thrilled to be performing in his third show with CMP, with whom he played Barnaby Tucker in *Hello, Dolly!* last year. Credits with other companies include: Jon in *Tick... Tick... BOOM*, Marco in *The Gondoliers*, Merriman in *The Importance of Being Earnest*, Steward in *Into the Woods*, Max Detweiler in *The Sound of Music*, , Mark Cohen in *Rent*, Anatoly Sergievsky in *Chess*, Seymour in *Little Shop of Horrors*, Jason Green in *The Producers*, Mack and Mabel and *Guys & Dolls*.



Bottle Dancers/Russians:

l. to r. Josh Waters, Damian Thomas, Mark Williams, Justin Ferrington



Fruma Sarah – Debbie Mann **Grandma – Christine Charlton**

Debbie has been a member of CMP for the past 26 years and is delighted to be performing in *Fiddler* again, having played Chava in the 1996 production, alongside Mark Conolly as Fyedka. Better known for her dancing, this performance finds Debbie playing the part of Fruma Sarah, the departed wife of Lazar Wolf and a "bitter woman".... She would like to apologise to any startled motorist that she has sat next to in traffic whilst practicing!! Special mention and thanks go to her Dad for his amazing engineering skills, which help Debbie appear 'slightly taller' than normal....!! **Christine** is another long-serving member of CMP having joined in 1991 for *The Merry Widow* the following year. She has performed a huge variety of roles since then and is also a regular soloist in our Autumn and Christmas concerts. She is enjoying being 'in the spotlight' in a main show, but not so keen on being lung up in the air twice every show!

Mendel – Chris Wood

Rabbi – Tony Kershaw

Chris is kept extremely busy, not just in his role as Chairman of CMP, but also in his real life job with United Biscuits which has seen him miss a few rehearsals with trips to tourist hot-spots like Riyadh, Lagos and Beirut! **Tony** is our Treasurer and has been with the society for 24 years. He has played many supporting parts in our productions including Mr Shalford in *Half A Sixpence*, Henry Miller in *Calamity Jane* and Lazar Wolf in CMP's first production of *Fiddler On The Roof* in 1996. Tony's wife Carole, who used to be our Secretary, refuses to be seen in public with him since he grew his beard for the part of the Rabbi and will be glad when the production is over so he can trim it down to a tidier appearance.



Mordcha – Peter Winn

Avram – John Caley

Constable – Simon Light

Peter is surprised to find he has gone full circle with CMP. His first role was as the innkeeper in *Smuggler's Inn* several years ago. It has been gratifying to work with Lucy as a Director again; she it was who persuaded Peter to tread the boards in the first place in a major show (*South Pacific*).

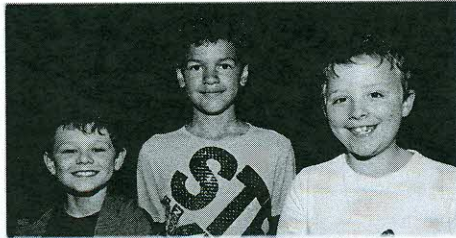
Since then Peter has much enjoyed taking part in a succession of shows with CMP. His major regret this year is that it will be the last performance with Nick Austin as MD and he greatly appreciates all the support, encouragement and banter he has had from Nick – still the show must go on!

The main thing **John** has brought to the part of Avram, the bookseller and village gossip, is his impressive beard - he has loved the excuse not to shave for 5 months! As usual, he has been ribbed by Southerners for pronouncing some words the (proper) Wigan way, but as Christopher Eccleston memorably pointed out in *Dr Who*, "all planets have a North", and so does Russia!

Simon, as secretary of CMP, has been busy with *Fiddler on the Roof* from long before the start of rehearsals. "Being responsible for booking the rehearsal space, theatre, set and communication to members, if anything goes wrong – it is probably my fault!". This is Simon's fourth CMP production at South Hill Park, but the first time he has a named part. You won't see Simon singing on stage much in this production, but he will be providing baritone support from the wings in the big chorus numbers.



The Children



l. to r. Joe Cooper, Daniel Dyer, Thomas O'Connell, Morgan Ferguson, Josephine Bennett

In the Wardrobe! with Janet Winn

Rural Russia 1905: *Fiddler* has been a real challenge to costume, not only is it difficult to think dull; but even charity shops throw away most of what I was looking for. As ever, after long hours spent on the internet, gathering information, printing archive pictures, ideas began to form and then the hard work began. Homburgs, caps, prayer hats, headscarves, everyone must have their head covered. Eventually, after a long journey up to Stourbridge, I visited an amazing costumiers where I was made very welcome and found the Sabbath coats, bottle dance hats and the prayer shawls I wanted, a trip worth making. Did you know that apparently the bottle dance was performed by young men to impress other daughters of the family and hopefully attract a wife? As in musical chairs, if the music stops and you are chairless then you are out - the same applies here if you drop the bottle. Did you also know that married Jewish women wear their wedding ring on their right index finger, a little exercise given to the 'mamas' to locate for themselves? Many purchases later, on E-bay, in charity and fabric shops, time spent removing collars from shirts, unpicking suede skirts and making garments, my perseverance eventually paid off and everyone has costumes to wear!

Michael Brenkley – Lighting Designer

Trained at Rose Bruford College. Recent shows worked on included EBOS's *Mack & Mabel*, *Bluebirds*, a new Musical (LAMBCO Productions), *The Go! Go! Go! Show* National Tour (The Show4kids), *Billy Elliot Youth Theatre* (Golden Ratio), *Cloud Busting* (NT Connections for Berzerk Productions), *Footloose the Musical*, London. Michael also works for local dance schools and producers: Allied School for Dance, Dance Connections, Dance Sensations, Strictly Street and Starlet Dance. Michael is looking forward to working with CMP again, having previously lit *Oklahoma!* and *Hello, Dolly!*



Erin Hope Pharo – Choreographer (and Fiddler)

Erin started dancing ballet at age 6 at Jayne A Coleman Academy of Dance and loved it so that much she never wanted to stop! So she took up Modern and Jazz and continued classes until she was 18. It was a sad time when Erin decided to stop dancing in order to concentrate on passing her A levels, but was thrilled to discover her local Am-dram societies, originally joining EBOS and then quickly becoming a member of CMP too. She has loved dancing in shows such as *Copacabana*, *Sweet Charity* and *Mack & Mabel* with EBOS (to name but a few), plus *Oklahoma!* and *Carousel* with CMP. So when the opportunity came to choreograph *Guys and Dolls* two years ago she jumped at the chance! She was invited back for *Hello, Dolly!* last year, and now, *Fiddler*. She is delighted with all the hard work the cast has put into the dances and is especially proud of the bottle dancers!

Lucy Seymour – Director

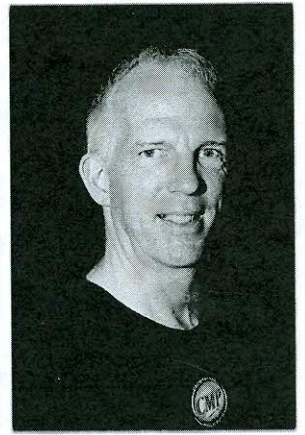
Lucy has been a member of, and directed for, many societies around the Berkshire area since moving to Reading over 20 years ago. She started by selling ribbons in the chorus of *Kiss Me Kate* and progressed to play roles such as Phoebe (*Yeomen*), Nancy (*Oliver!*) & Liz in *High Society* to name but a few. Lucy then made her directing debut in 1997 and went on to direct many shows including *Half a Sixpence*, *Oklahoma!*, *Thoroughly Modern Millie* and most recently *Iolanthe*. This is her second time directing for CMP's main show having previously been involved in *South Pacific* and their autumn concert *Love is in the Air*.

Lucy changed careers a couple of years ago to be a private music and dance teacher for pre-school children with MAD Academy and now gets to sing and dance (well ... prance around) every day! She also has her own tutoring business (maths) and looks after her two children Jacob (15) and Anna (13). She would like to thank everyone for their hard work on the show - and for some people in particular (you know who you are) for not just performing but for finding props, people, children and men who can dance while balancing bottles on their heads - no mean feat! She would also like to say a personal farewell to CMP's musical director Nick Austin - 25 years - it's a long time!



Nick Austin – Musical Director

*Introduction by John Caley: As you may have seen in the local press, Nick is leaving CMP after 25 years as our Musical Director. I joined CMP in 1999 and he has been an ever-constant presence throughout my time in the Society. His enthusiasm, skill, talent, together with his determination to continually improve standards (and, yes, his terrible jokes) have helped CMP become what it is today. On a personal note, I am particularly grateful for his constructive help and support during my period as Chairman. In my capacity as Programme Editor, we have had an ongoing battle where, if he didn't submit profile information in time, I would just make something up. So previous years have seen him recovering from a sex-change operation, dressing as a pillar box for the Olympic opening ceremony, being part of an underground espionage cult and being an ex-miner keeping retired pit-ponies in his high-rise flat. Sadly, but perhaps in keeping with the occasion, he has actually managed to write something himself this year. So, farewell, good luck, and over to **Nick**...*



“So here we are.....

Nearly 25 years, over 60 Main, Autumn & Christmas Shows and a combined preparation and rehearsal time in excess of 6000 hours. It doesn't seem possible but it's time to move on and hand the CMP baton over to someone else.

The last 25 years with CMP have been absolutely wonderful; the chance to work with incredibly talented directors and choreographers, professional theatre staff, wonderful orchestras and, most importantly, a hugely gifted group of actors & actresses. There have been far too many highlights to mention any one particular occasion. Friendships have been formed that I know will last forever and for that I'm eternally grateful.

It all started with a chance conversation that led me to be rehearsal pianist for *Showboat* and then, the following year, to musically direct *Ruddigore*; *They sing choruses in public. That's mad enough I think!* Nick Kershaw fixed that band for me (and, I think, every one since) and Neil Charlton played 'cello. It's fitting that they're both in the pit this week.

I hope that whoever takes over from me will remember that CMP is a family. There are those who have been around a long time and are very experienced (Debbie Mann has been there for a year longer than me!) and some who are very new to the group with amazing raw talent, but they still have much to learn. Then there are the Mamas and the Papas – the committee. These people work incredibly hard for the society and share my passion for the group. They still need support though – it's not an easy job – please look after them all!

So thank you all for your support and friendship over the last 25 years – it's been a blast!”

Production Team

Director	<i>Lucy Seymour</i>
Musical Director	<i>Nick Austin</i>
Choreographer	<i>Erin Hope Pharo</i>
Stage Manager	<i>Alan Smith, Christine Stanford</i>
Deputy Stage Manager	<i>Susan Nicholson</i>
Lighting Designer & Operator	<i>Michael Brenkley</i>
Sound	<i>Clive Stanley</i>
Stage Crew	<i>Chris Evans, Bill Fox, Andy Springford, Bob Swann</i>
Photography	<i>Bob Swann</i>
Properties	<i>Peter Winn</i>
Scenery	<i>Scenic Projects Ltd</i>
Costume Design & Wardrobe	<i>Janet Winn</i>
Costume Preparation	<i>Katy Lethbridge, Kirstin Pettit, Lucy Herd, Fran Collins, Sara Dillon, Debbie Mann, Sue Dyer, Maxine Robinson, Chrissy Pask</i>
Make Up	<i>Linda Peacock</i>
Front of House Organiser	<i>Sue Ford</i>
Administration Manager	<i>Simon Light</i>
Publicity	<i>Sue Ford, Chrissy Pask</i>
Programme	<i>John Caley</i>
Tickets	<i>Sue Ford, Chris Wood</i>

Many thanks to our Costume suppliers:
Triple C's Costumes; Starmaker Costume Hire;
EBOS; South East Berks Gang Show.

Thanks also to **Syngenta** for transport & storage of costumes and props; **Crowthorne Parish Council**; the technical staff at **South Hill Park**; everyone who has helped with Front of House and the Raffle; and all the Suppliers, Advertisers, Members and Friends of the Society who have given their financial and/or physical assistance.

Orchestra

Violin	<i>Steph Cole</i>
Cello	<i>Neil Charlton</i>
Double Bass	<i>Jim Pullen</i>
Guitar	<i>Max Britten</i>
Accordion	<i>Pete Watson</i>
Percussion	<i>Martin Proctor</i>
Flute/Piccolo	<i>Zoe Philips</i>
Clarinet	<i>Nicki Maher</i>
Trumpet	<i>Mark Cox</i>
Trombone	<i>Nick Kershaw</i>