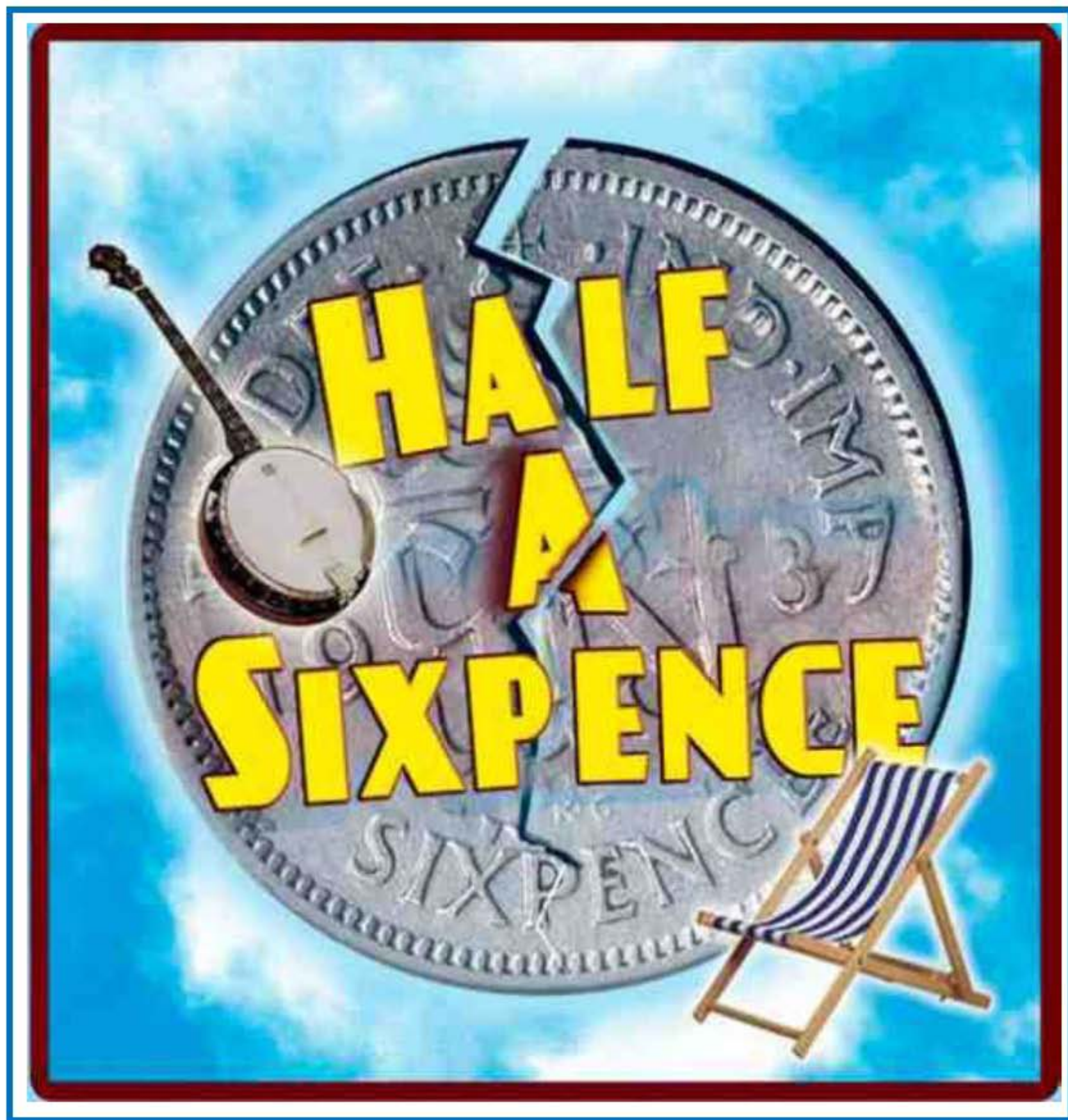




Welwyn Thaliens Musical and Dramatic Society



Campus West Hawthorne Theatre

Programme

Affiliated to NODA

Welwyn Thaliens
Registered Charity 254707

Half a Sixpence

A musical based on the novel "Kipps" by H.G. Wells

Book by BEVERLEY CROSS

Music and Lyrics by DAVID HENEKER

New Version by WARNER BROWNE

By arrangement with Warner/Chappell music Ltd administered by Boosey and Hawkes

Welwyn Thaliens Musical And Dramatic Society



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Mrs Marjorie Coles	Mrs Angela Dunham	Mr Peter Dunham
Mr Brian King MBE	Mrs Joan Watts	Mrs Vanessa Baker

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Vice Chairman:	Angela Dunham
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Committee:	Peter Dunham, Amanda Sayers, Tammy Wall, Tim Spink, Alison Mills-Barr
Membership Secretary:	Gillian Shaw

The **Welwyn Thaliens travelling Music Hall Show** is available for functions and fund raising events. A most entertaining performing spectacular of 1 to 2 hours in length which can be tailored to meet your requirements and venue. For details of rates and availability please ring Peter Dunham on 01707 333318.



Half a Sixpence

A musical based on H.G Wells novel 'Kipps'. Half a Sixpence tells the tale of a humble clerk, Arthur Kipps, who finds himself working in a Folkestone drapery emporium together with his shop workers; Buggins - the pessimist, Sid - the socialist, Pearce - the dandy and the shop girls; Flo, Kate and Victoria. The drapery is run by a demanding owner, Mr Shalford, who is obsessed with three working values; system, efficiency and economy. As a child in an orphanage, Kipps meets a young girl, Ann, who becomes his childhood sweetheart. As a token of their love, Kipps breaks a sixpence in two and shares it with Ann. As they grow up they drift apart. Now as one of the older apprentices, Kipps finds himself working in the drapery. However, just as life is getting him down, Ann turns up unexpectedly in Folkestone to seek out Kipps and rekindle their happiness. This isn't the only surprise for Kipps for after a chance encounter with Chitterlow, an extravagant playwright, Kipps inherits a small fortune. Now with 'money to burn' Kipps is drawn towards the high life and aspires to be a 'proper gentleman'. Forgetting his work pals and childhood sweetheart, Kipps moves up the social ladder to rub shoulders with the gentry. He is soon captured and engaged to the well educated Helen Walsingham who tries to mould Kipps into something he isn't. Kipps soon realises that he's not cut out for the high life, breaks off the engagement with Helen and seeks out Ann. However, just as Kipps is settling down with Ann, building a mansion and planning out his future, fate deals Kipps a blow and he and Ann soon find their new found wealth is no more. But for Kipps, fate is a strange thing that always seems to change especially for the best as there is one more twist in the tale.

----- ACT I -----

Scene 1: The Emporium	Here Comes a Normal Working Day	Kipps, Sid, Pearce, Buggins, Kate, Flo, Victoria & Company
Scene 2: The Basement	All in the Cause of Economy	Sid, Pearce, Buggins, & Kipps
Scene 3: The Promenade	Half a Sixpence	Kipps, Ann
Scene 4: The Emporium	This is it	Kipps, Chitterlow

Scene 5: Theatre Pub Alley	Money to Burn	Kipps, Chitterlow, Sid, Pearce, Buggins Laura & Company
Scene 6: Evening Class	Be Determined	Helen, Kipps & Students
Scene 7: The Promenade	I Don't Believe a Word of It	Ann, Flo, Victoria, & Kate
Scene 8: The Emporium	A Proper Gentleman	Kipps, Shop workers
Scene 9: The Promenade	Too Far Above Me by Far	Kipps, Ann
Scene 10: The Municipal Park	If the Rains Got to Fall	Kipps & Company
Scene 11: Cricket Match	Here Comes a Perfect Summers Day	Company

----- ACT 2 -----

Scene 1: The Promenade	No Need for Economy	Sid, Pearce, Buggins, Kate, Flo & Victoria
Scene 2: The Promenade	The One Whos Run Away	Kipps, Chitterlow
Scene 3: Folkstone Floral hall	Finesse	Mrs Walsingham, Helen, Mr Walsingham
Scene 4: The Kitchen	Long Ago	Ann, Kipps
Scene 5: Outside the Church Hall	Flash Bang Wallop!	Kipps & Company
Scene 6: Rented House	I Know Who I Am	Ann
Scene 7: The Building Site	That's What Money's For	Kipps, Sid, Pearce, Buggins & Company
Scene 8: Soliloquy	What Should I Feel	Kipps
Scene 9: The Promenade	Half a Sixpence	Ann, Kipps
Scene 10: The Book Shop	All in the Cause of Economy	Sid, Pearce, Buggins, Flo, Kate & Victoria
Scene 11: Finale	Reprise	Company

Cast of Characters

Arther Kipps	Dominic Johnstone	Ann	Tammy Wall
Helen	Zoë Jasko	Chitterlow	Peter Sayers
Sid	Nick Baker	Mr Walsingham	Peter Dunham
Buggins	Vin Clemmens	Mrs Walsingham	Alison Mills-Barr
Pearce	Tim Spink	Laura	Louise Bateman
Kate	Gillian Shaw	Jeremiah	Nathan Molyneux
Victoria	Samantha Ademan	Gwendolin	Angela Monaghan
Flo	Alison Downes	Young Kipps	William Maxwell
Mr Shalford	Brian King	Young Ann	Annalise Spink
Attendant	Dot Lutkin	Reporter	Colleen Town

Company

Roisin Bateman, Keira Bateman, Mary Ferrie, Stevie Gibbs, Rhiannon Gibbs, Alan Gibbs, Graham Bird, Georgina Hill, Vicky Collins,

Production Crew

Production Director	Amanda Sayers
Stage Director	Vin Clemmens
Stage Manager	Jackie Radford
Musical Director	Peter Farrell
Choreographers	Mary Ferrie, Samantha Ademan, Tammy Wall & Alison Downes
Stage Manager	Vincent Clemmens
Assistant Stage Manager	Frances Green
Stage Crew	Peter Chenery, John Thorn, Rob Clemmens, Chris Love, Wendy Tormey
Costume Mistress & Prompt	Angela Dunham
Properties Manager	Vanessa Baker
Properties Team	Katherine Brassett
Sound	Terry Cull
Lighting Design	Richard Boaste
Costumes	Theatrical Costumehouse (Westcliff) Ltd.
Campus West Theatre manager	Mark Woolman
Campus West Technical manager	Phil Bentley

Orchestra

Conductor	Peter Farrell
Flute	Clare Taylor
Clarinets	Pat Light
Trumpets	Tim Welch
Trombone	Ian Daniels
Horn	Simon Cove
Violin	Boris Peck
Bass	Peter Neville
Percussion	Chris Gray
Keyboard	Dean Evans

Tim Spink - Pearce (the Dandy)

Tim says he learns the songs and lines whilst riding his bike. He managed to rehearse most of the play during the London to Brighton charity bike ride in June, motivating the other cyclists on the way with a few songs – well they all sped off pretty quick ! When asked what he enjoys the most: “learning things I never expected I’d need to know, tap dancing and shadow steps !!



Vin Clemmens - Buggins (the Pessimist)

Vin is our current society chairman, stage manager and support actor – a real ‘can do’ chap !! Although playing the pessimist in this show, Vin is not a pessimist by heart so he has to kurb his wit and keep a fork tongue for this great supporting role.



Nick Baker - Sid (the Socialist)

Nick joined the Thaliens in 1981 to play Gremio in Kiss Me Kate. It was there that he met his wife Vanessa who now produces the most wonderful props for our shows. Nick’s hobbies are sailing, cycling but above all acting.



Gillian Shaw – Kate

Gill joined the Thaliens in 1987 and has appeared in nearly every show since joining. Gill has also served for many years on the committee only recently standing down to serve as Membership Secretary. Gill’s first principal role was Sue Smith in *No No Nannette* followed by Mabel, the long suffering secretary in *Pajama Game* and Annie Chapman in *Jack the Ripper*.

Samantha Ademan - Victoria

Sam has been with the society for many years and has played many roles. Sam is also one of our choreographers. Sam choreographed the ballet scene in *Oklahoma* – a big dance number. Sam has also directed many shows for the Thaliens including *The Wizard of Oz* and *Kiss Me Kate*. Previous leads have been Queen Victoria in *Jack the Ripper* and Bloody Mary in *South Pacific*.



Alison Downes – Flo

This will be Alisons first support lead role, not that Alison is shy when it comes to performing. Her performance of ‘If You Could See Me Now’ was truly stunning at our last Music Hall show !!

Alison Mills-Barr – Mrs Walsingham

Alison studied music at Colchester Music College and her high standards of singing and acting has won her many leads including Laurie in *Oklahoma*, Eliza in *My Fair Lady*, Maria in *West Side Story*, Hope Harcourt in *Anything Goes*, Katey Brown in *Calamity Jane*, Kate in *Kiss me Kate* and Sarah Brown in *Guys and Dolls*.





Dominic Johnstone – Arthur Kipps

This is Dom's first performance with the Thaliens and also his first major lead role in a show. During rehearsals Dom keeps us amused with his charm and wit. Dom is also our avionics specialist and equally at home flitting around the inside of an RAF Tornado – Where he also learnt to tap dance !! A la da di da, hip hip hurrah proper gentleman !



Zoë Jasko – Helen Walsingham

This is Zoë's first performance with the Thaliens but Zoë is no newcomer to the stage and has been performing for many years. Zoë's buoyant charm and beautiful voice fit perfectly with this part but pay attention as her painting classes can be 'capturing' but may not reveal the difference between a horse and a dog ?



Tammy Wall - Ann

Musical Theatre: Gladys in *Pajama Game*, Mary Kelly in *Jack the Ripper*; Erma in *Anything Goes*; Sally in *Bowles Cabaret*; Charity in *Sweet Charity*; Lois/Bianca in *Kiss me Kate*; Audrey in *Little Shop of Horrors*; Winnie in *Annie get your Gun*; Nellie in *South Pacific*; Miss Bell in *Fame*; Sharon in *Slice of Saturday Night*; Miranda in *Forbidden Planet*; Pitti-Sing in *Hot Mikado*; Bet in *Oliver*; Calamity in *Calamity Jane* and Eliza in *My Fair Lady*

Plays:- Caitlin O'Hare in *Over the River and through the Woods*; Bridget in *Safari Party*; Ensemble in *Under Milkwood*



Peter Sayers – Chitterlow

Peter has appeared with The Thaliens since 1999. His many leads include Curly in *Oklahoma*, Sky Masterson in *Guys & Dolls*, Billy in *Anything Goes* and of course the Cowardly Lion in our production of *The Wizard of Oz*. His favourite part to date was as the sinister M.C. in *Cabaret*. Whilst his most demanding was Petrucio in *Kiss me Kate*. Peter's most recent appearances were Emile de Becque in *South Pacific* and Koko in *The Hot Mikado*, Wild Bill in *Calamity Jane* and Higgins in *My Fair Lady*.

Peter Dunham – Mr Walsingham

A long serving Thalian chairman only recently stepping down. Peter's first show with the Thaliens was *Vagabond King* in 1957, where as the villain of the piece, he only lasted half way through the first act ! This time he plays a rather older Walsingham than H.G. Wells probably intended, but he does hang on to the second act (obviously getting much better with age !)



Brian King (MBE) – Mr Shalford

In the realms of the performing arts Brian is very well known. Brian joined the Thaliens in 1967. His most enjoyed part was playing Kipps in *Half a Sixpence*. However, this time Brian plays the stern Mr Shalford, obsessed with System, Fishery and Economy. Brian is also well known for his Danesbury charity work, and in 2004 was awarded an MBE for Services to the Community.

A Word From our Chairman - Vincent Clemmens

Good evening. Firstly I would like to welcome you to this years show and give my thanks for supporting The Welwyn Thalias. As you sit here looking through the programme, take a moment to think of all the hard work that has gone into producing a show like this. The months of rehearsals, the hours spent learning lines and the work put in back stage. The week of performances seems to fly past and it all seems over in such a short time. But the sense of achievement and the great fun had by all makes it worth while. I would like to give my thanks all those involved in this show. To Mandy Sayers and her hard work in directing the show, Peter Farrell our musical director, Richard Boaste our lighting designer and all the cast members, principals and company, as well as all the back stage crew beavering away unseen (hopefully). If you have ever thought about giving community theatre a try we are always pleased to see new members. If you fancy stepping up in front of the footlights or helping behind the scenes then contact our membership secretary Gillian Shaw . We meet on Mondays and Thursdays at the Thalias Hall in Bridge Road East opposite B&Q. Who knows next year it could be your name in lights. Enjoy the show.

Director

Amanda Sayers

Mandy has starred in many past Thalian productions such as Adelaide in *Guy's and Dolls* and Nancy in *Oliver* but has also been a regular director with the Society for the last ten years. By her own admission Mandy prefers to take the reins for the more unusual shows and her talents in this sphere have resulted in some truly memorable productions such as *Jack the Ripper*, *Cabaret* and *The Hot Mikado*. Her most recent appearance was starring as Annie Oakley opposite husband Peter in *Annie Get Your Gun*.



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Musical Director - Peter Farrell

Peter graduated from the The Royal Academy of Music in 1975 and has enjoyed a professional career in music ever since both performing and teaching from jazz to Beethoven. Peter is an extremely talented performer who became our MD in 1985 and has continued his very successful relationship with us ever since.





Best of the Music Halls – Spring 2012

Our spring performance, shown at our own theatre in Welwyn Garden City, is a fabulous night out of music, dance and of course a fish and chip supper. This is a charity event intended for your charity. **If you are a large charity** and want to do something **very** different for fund raising then please contact Peter Dunham on 01707 333318.

Welwyn Thaliens - were formed in 1929 from a merger with two other amateur societies, the Barnstormers (drama) and the Operatic Society (music). The Old Welwyn Theatre in Parkway, later the Embassy Cinema, was the first venue. Most of the early shows were Gilbert and Sullivan productions. Dame Flora Robson, an early and active supporter, can still be remembered sweeping down the aisles. In those days ticket prices were 2/4d to 5/9d and a special London train, the 10.52 pm, was put on to take patrons back to the city. The society's first producer was A W Richardson and it wasn't long before musical shows and 'straight' plays poured out in succession while the reputation of the Thaliens grew. A large scale production of *St Joan* was reported favourably at length in the Daily Telegraph no less. Festival triumphs took the society as far as America, where the 'Lord Howard De Warden Cup' was won with *Not This Man* by Sidney Box. The Thaliens were also first at the Letchworth Festival. Before closing down for the duration in 1939 they presented the world premier of *Castles in the Air* written for the society by Sidney Box and Montgomery Tully with music by May H Brahe. This South American romance starred Mildred Thompson in her debut as a dark haired senorita. Her great grandchildren appear in this show today. After the war, in 1947, the Thaliens were back in business with *The Gondoliers* and continued filling the Welwyn Theatre until in 1962 when, after a successful opening performance of *Carousel*, a fire broke out and the stage was destroyed. The members pulled together and the remaining performances were completed at a local school. When the Campus West Theatre opened the Society moved in and has been performing there ever since. Tempting and nostalgic as it is to glance back over such successful years it is really the future we must face. Theatre is struggling to compete with life's modern age of TV and film, however, the "real" experience the theatre gives is unrivalled. We have a lot of fun rehearsing for these shows and performing live is to experience real living.

Performing is fun. If you fancy having a go then why not come along and see. We meet Monday and Thursday evenings at the New Thalian Hall right opposite B & Q in Bridge Road East. For further details contact our wonderful membership secretary Gill Shaw Tel: 01707 334929

Recent Past Productions

2000	Oklahoma
2001	The Pajama Game
2001	Guys And Dolls
2002	Jack The Ripper
2002	Anything Goes
2003	Cabaret
2003	The Wizard Of Oz
2004	Call Me Madam
2004	Sweet Charity
2005	Pirates Of Penzance
2005	Kiss Me Kate
2006	Little Shop Of Horrors
2006	Annie Get Your Gun
2007	South Pacific
2008	The Hot Mikado
2009	Calamity Jane
2010	My Fair Lady

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Welwyn Hatfield TIMES

The Welwyn Hatfield Times has been serving the population of the borough since 1928. It is one of few remaining paid-for titles in the county. It prides itself on its close involvement with the community. Based in WGC, the title also covers Hatfield and the surrounding villages including Welwyn, Codicote, Knebworth, Brookmans Park and Welham Green.

The Welwyn Hatfield Times is known for its many campaigning activities including its (then) successful bid to get a superhospital built in Hatfield (later overturned by the Government), bids to save the existing QE2 Hospital, the NoWayto10k Green Belt campaign, Hatfield Town Centre regeneration and many, many, more.



Half a Sixpence - Trivia

Half a Sixpence is based on H.G. Wells book 'Kipps' published in 1905 – Wells considered this his best novel.

The original stage production of "Half a Sixpence" opened at the Broadhurst Theater in New York on April 25, 1965 starring Tommy Steele and Julia Foster. It ran for 511 performances and was nominated for the 1965 Tony Award for the Best Musical. Tommy Steele later recreated his stage role in the film version.

Julia Foster (who played Ann) is Ben Fogles mother. Ben was first brought to our TV screens in 'Castaway' – a series about a group living on a remote Scottish island.

Some say that Half a Sixpence was written around Steeles talents. His importance to the show is evident as he appears in nearly all the scenes. However, the first thing Kipps buys once he inherits his wealth is a Banjo – Some say written for Steele who is a good Banjo player. However, in H.G. Wells book – Kipps, the first thing Kipps buys is indeed a Banjo. Steele was just right for the part.

The original "Half a Six pence" was choreographed by Lesley Judd – probably better know as one of the long time Blue Peter presenters.



Sixpence, known colloquially as a tanner, or half-shilling, was a British pre-decimal coin, worth pre-1971, six pence, or 1/40th of a pound. In England, the first sixpences were struck in the reign of Edward VI in 1551 and continued until they were rendered obsolete by decimalisation in 1971. The slang word 'tanner' meaning sixpence dates from the early 1800s and is derived most probably from Romany gypsy 'tawno' meaning small one.



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