

## Productions in 2002

### The Sound of Music

- The Hills Are Alive!

In Autumn 2002 'The Sound of Music' by Richard Rodgers & Oscar Hammerstein II, presented in the Public Hall, Beccles, from 8th to 12th October, was a record breaker! On Tuesday we sold the most seats for an Opening Night ever, and then the rest of the run was totally sold out with people queuing for returns and several coming back more than once. An unprecedented celebration of Richard Rodgers' Centenary Year, it gave everyone who was involved with it great pleasure and satisfaction.

To quote from the Lowestoft Journal - "This is a well-cast, well-produced, well-rehearsed, well-sung and well-acted production which leaves you emotionally drained but spiritually uplifted". Audiences left happily singing the catchy tunes from the show and overflowing with praise for every performance: even weeks after Last Night the production was still the talk of Beccles and surrounding areas. All agreed that we gave them a show for which the word "triumph" is not an overstatement.

Musical Director & choreographer Stella Brownsea deserves great credit for marshalling the 17-strong orchestra to produce one of their best sounds ever and even if our first-time Stage Director, Steve Holmes, didn't go quite as far as saying he actually enjoyed the experience (!) there was considerable pleasure at a job well done. Any doubts anyone may have had about working with children were blown away by our fantastic teams of junior von Trapps who fully justified our confidence in them to give a truly memorable performance. Our principals also served us well, "performing and singing with authority and confidence".

No production can ever succeed without a large support staff, both backstage and front of house. Special thanks must go to Stage Manager Peter Martin for leading the transformation of the staging designs into solid reality, then effectively marshalling the stage crew to ensure that everything was in place when it should have been. Also to Front of House Manager Sue Cushing, whose teams ensured that things went smoothly within the Hall (and on some nights gave up their seats to squeeze in extra audience!) and to Pat Langman, her make-up crew and the dressers for the calm way they handled the (at times) very rapid costume changes required.

To give the final word to the Lowestoft Journal - "This production was an absorbing all-round success which must go down as one of the Group's most notable to date". It certainly was!!

