

Little Shop of Horrors

Our spring show closed to rave reviews and a fantastic, triumphant finale on Saturday 29th April. We hit the stage with a memorable Opening Night on Wednesday which left the audience rocking in the aisles and things just got better from there! The band were on as good form as the cast so things got off on a high note right from the opening number and continued in this vein right through to the final curtain. Never has a plant seemed more alive - if it's not on Gardeners' World we will want to know why!!

This level of performance was not a surprise to those who have watched the production grow though - rehearsals had always been progressing well with several "run through's" helping us to firmly commit to memory Stage Director John Cushing's intentions (well, some of them anyway!) and make at least a reasonable stab at the transatlantic accents. John was always confident that we could pull off the very different style of performance required and, in the end, how right he was. Musical Director Chris Steed deserves much praise for bringing together a totally different style of music. There will probably be those who haven't yet realised Chris was in the "pit" at all, hiding in the corner as he was, but those who did notice him will have been very grateful to him for keeping them in touch with the difficult rhythms of this show. His outer air of confidence probably disguised much going on inside (!) but without him we could not have held it together at all. During rehearsals the fingers of our wonder-pianists, David Kett and Bob McNeil-Watson, have never flown over the keys with such style and during the performances the band added so much to the show - plus quite a few notes we'd never heard before!

While they may not have had as much set construction to do as usual, the stage crew under the capable direction of Terry Dentith again came up trumps, even just about managing to tame Audrey II by the end of the week! Our backstage heroes in makeup, props, wardrobe, sound, lights and catering plus all our eager helpers front-of-house rose to the occasion once more to ensure that a really happy and enjoyable show would have the success it deserved - our thanks go to each and every one of them.

The ever-popular ticket-selling competition produced some monster totals so it was necessary to go down to fifth place in the rankings before we get to less than ½100-worth of sales! In second place, with ½206-50 - a total that would have been way ahead in any other year - was Daniel Rose but in first place with the ridiculously magnificent total of ½567-50 was that pillar of Halesworth society (or perhaps not!) our very own pop sensation, Sarah Cook. Congratulations to you all.

We often say that a show is "the best yet" but in this case surely there can be no doubt: great art it wasn't but to call it great entertainment would be a massive understatement! Ticket sales were just unbelievable - we even had to open up the gallery such was the demand. If you did manage to get a ticket you can count yourself very lucky - you will have experienced one of the defining moments of the Society's history.