

**GOLDEN JUBILEE SOUVENIR PROGRAMME**  
Scoutabout 1953

to

# **CHESTER** **GANG SHOW**

# 2004



**PRESENTED BY**  
**CHESTER & DISTRICT SCOUT COUNCIL**



**50th Production at The Chester Gateway Theatre**  
**Tuesday 10th to Saturday 14th February 2004**  
**Evenings at 7.15pm & Saturday Matinee at 2.15pm**

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# City of Chester

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Councillor Barry Cowper

The Lord Mayor's Parlour,  
Town Hall, Chester CH1 2HJ  
Telephone (01244) 402126  
Fax (01244) 350620  
E-mail: w.healiss@chestercc.gov.uk

Thank you for your valuable support for the Chester Gang Show. It is a tremendous showcase for local talent and I am proud to be associated with it.

Being a Lord Mayor with very little talent I admire the boys and girls for their talent, contribution and dedication, all of which are needed to produce an outstanding performance.

Gwynn and I would also like to recognise all the hard work done in rehearsals by the production team to ensure the audience has a very pleasurable evening.

We wish them all every success for now and for the future.

*Yours Faithfully*

Lord Mayor



## His Grace, The Duke of Westminster **PRESIDENT OF CHESTER & DISTRICT SCOUT COUNCIL**



My father was associated with the Scout Movement in Chester for many years and I was therefore honoured and delighted when I was invited to take over as President of Chester Scout Council in 1979. Since then I have been pleased to support the various activities that have taken place on and around the estate, including sponsored walks, hikes and gatherings.

It is most encouraging that an organisation which developed from Baden Powell's experimental camp on Brownsea Island in 1907 is still going strong almost one hundred years later, and is operating as a positive force throughout the world. This same spirit of fun, teamwork and commitment is perpetuated in the phenomenon of the "Gang Show" originated in 1932 by Ralph Reader.

I am sorry I cannot be with you tonight but I would like to take this opportunity of congratulating all those involved with this, your Golden Jubilee production, for all their hard work and dedication in making possible what I am sure will be a record breaking performance. I wish you all a most enjoyable evening.

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# FROM THE DISTRICT COMMISSIONER

This is the seventh attempt at writing a contribution to this programme, the other six are in the bin, so I am now starting with a short history of Gang Show in Chester: 1953 saw the first Show at the Cathedral Refectory and in 1956 (47 years ago) we went to the Royalty Theatre but in 1966, when England won the World Football Cup, the Royalty Theatre closed, so we then moved to the ABC Cinema. Another move in 1969 took us to the Gateway Theatre and girls joined the Gang for the first time. In millennium year 2000 we finally gained the Red Scarf and three years later England won the Rugby World Cup. That in a nutshell was it, 50 years bounded by two National sporting achievements and then rehearsals followed for our Golden Jubilee Production!

I have been backstage myself, waiting to come on, wondering how many people are watching. Will I remember my lines? I never did but once on stage it was great; I had a fantastic time, I will never forget my time in Gang Show and the young people you are going to see tonight won't either.

It takes a lot of time and effort to put a Show together and a lot of help is needed. "Thank you" to all the backstage crew, front of house staff, costume and props makers, set designers, the make-up team, plus anyone I might have forgotten; without all their perseverance and commitment we would never have had a show.

Good luck to the Gang! "Thank you", the audience, for coming to watch Gang Show 2004. Now sit back and just enjoy the singing dancing and sketches.

Kath Kitchen  
District Commissioner.

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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS & APPRECIATION

His Grace The Duke of Westminster  
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Parents and families, for support  
and transport.

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Ryder*

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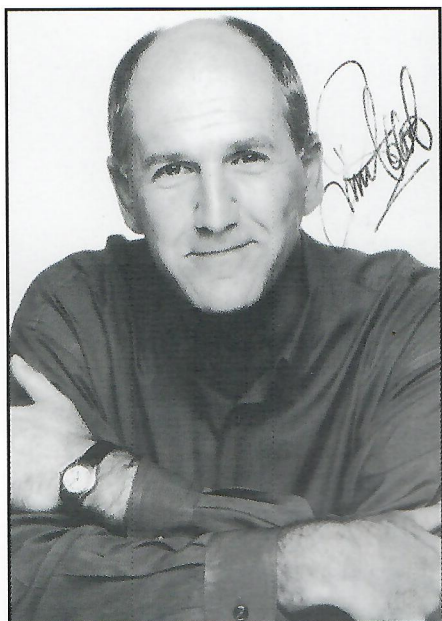
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# BEST WISHES FROM RUSS ABBOT AND GYLES BRANDRETH



Wishing you all a huge success in your future Gang Show. I'm sorry I can't attend as I will be appearing in 'Chitty, Chitty, Bang Bang' at the London Palladium.

The very best of luck.

Regards

So not out – brilliant, congratulations. I'll be there in spirit. In fact, I'll be touring in my own sort of gang show (Zipp! we don't do musicals in 90 minutes!) but I'll raise my glass to you all.

Best Wishes



## NOT THE PRODUCER'S LETTER

A long time ago in a galaxy far away ... nobody really knows what was going on, but here in Chester fifty years ago, many a young Scout was deliberating over his first appearance on stage at the Cathedral Refectory and whether or not he knew his lines to "Crest of a Wave". Well, I can tell you "Crest of a Wave" is nothing in comparison to last year's "7/8 Monty" and the chattering teeth of its performers as we waited anxiously to strip in front of our families!

Gang Show has seen many ups and downs as the years have progressed, all of which its various Producers have handled (with or without a few large whiskies, I don't know), but in the words of a famous person, whose name I cannot recall, "The Show Must Go On", and this year it certainly has. With the changes imminent, nobody knows what will become of Chester Gang Show next year and so it has been all hands on deck this year.

OK – I tell a lie. The "GROWN-UPS" have run around like headless chickens so that the rest of us get praise and sloppy kisses from Grandma after the show. With a production team that has seen us right through many of the long years I would like to speak on behalf of the Gang to thank them and, more importantly, you the audience. Get ready for a rollercoaster ride of Chester Gang Show madness as we present to you our 50th show.

Nick Hirst,  
Centurion Network

PS Dear Richard. You may have a lot of work on with being the Producer, but there are easier ways than bribery to avoid writing this letter, you know!

PPS Dear Richard. When do I get my 20 quid?

## NO SOLUM...SED ETIAM

When I took over from Matt Davies for the 48th production in 2002, I cunningly delegated the writing of the traditional Producer's Letter to a member of the Gang – why on earth would you want to hear from me? So many favourable comments were covertly overheard resulting from this decision that I decided to stick with the winning formula for the future. On sober reflection aboard a yacht in the middle of Lough Derg in November, I wavered (must have been the Guinness) and decided I would like to say something (as well as apologising for missing rehearsals!)

Since 1953, thousands of people have been in the Gang; some came back, some decided that once was enough, but all of them have had an experience like no other, an experience only possible thanks to the hundreds of people who give so generously of their time and ability, not just to Gang Show but also to Scouting activities in general. There's an old Leader recruitment saying: "It's only an hour a week" – ask anyone involved, and you'll find it is anything BUT an hour a week. The hard work and dedication which is expended on Scouting activities throughout the year is truly amazing, all to provide young people with the opportunity to develop skills and undertake activities

which can provide a lifetime of excitement. Gang Show is but a part of this total effort, organised, supported and run by people who are also running Beaver Colonies, Cub Scout Packs, Scout Troops, Explorer Scout Units, Venture Scout Units and Scout Groups at the same time. We also have a huge contingent of activists and supporters who (through no fault of their own!) have ceased to be, or who have never ever been members of the Scout Association. The fact that these people are also so generous with their involvement and enthusiasm confirms to me that there is something worthwhile in what we are doing, both with the Gang Show and with the wide world of Scouting.

So what would I like to say? Past, present and future – to you, our audiences; to all patrons and supporters; to the Gangs and the Teams behind them; to all adults in Scouting; to my Unit; to Bob Lannin; to Roy Fisher; to Mum & Dad:

Thank You.

Richard Clarke (Producer)

# The GANG

|                  |                            |                         |                      |
|------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|
| Rachael Allport  | 1st Christleton            | Amy Jones-Roberts       | Dewa ESU             |
| Clare Bamford    | Centurion Network          | Rachel Kevern           | 5th Blacon           |
| Vicky Bell       | 1st Upton-by-Chester       | Mike Kerrich            | District             |
| Charlie Bertinat | 1st Saltney                | Dave Kitchen            | Centurion Network    |
| Tom Booth        | 8th Chester                | John Lambert            | Fellowship           |
| Cormac Bowell    | 1st Upton-by-Chester/SICSI | Charlie Lawson          | 1st Saltney          |
| Jayne Challinor  | 8th Chester                | Jonah Leake             | 25th Chester         |
| Jenny Challinor  | 8th Chester                | Zachary Lloyd           | 1st Saltney          |
| Amy Clarke       | 42nd Chester               | Richard Ludden          | 1st Farndon          |
| Richard Clarke   | Centurion Network          | Robin McLaren           | Dewa ESU             |
| Ronnie Collins   | 40th Chester               | Anya Perry              | Garrisons ESU        |
| Vicki Courtney   | 25th Chester               | Parisa Rahmani-Torkaman | 1st Guilden Sutton   |
| Charlotte Davies | 1st Christleton            | Charlotte Redford       | 1st Christleton      |
| Jaimie Dent      | 8th Chester                | Matthew Reeve           | Garrisons ESU        |
| Trisha Devine    | Garrisons ESU              | Luke Roberts            | Garrisons ESU        |
| Michael Doherty  | 18th Chester               | Joy Roberts             | 42nd Chester         |
| Jonathan Ducker  | 5th Blacon                 | Pippa Ryan              | 1st Christleton      |
| Daryl Ealey      | 40th Chester               | Christopher Smith       | 1st Christleton      |
| Demi Fortune     | 8th Chester                | Robert Smith            | 1st Christleton      |
| James Gibson     | 8th Chester                | Amy Sproston            | 1st Christleton      |
| Bev Hall         | 1st Christleton            | Amy Steaton             | 8th Chester          |
| Mel Hall         | Dewa ESU                   | Cat Taker               | Centurion Network    |
| Luke Hanmer      | 1st Malpas                 | Cameron Tallant         | 1st Guilden Sutton   |
| Harriet Harding  | 1st Christleton            | Nicole Tallant          | 1st Christleton      |
| Izzy Harding     | 1st Christleton            | Joseph Taylor           | 40th Chester         |
| Keith Harding    | 1st Christleton            | Luke Thornton           | 1st Farndon          |
| Yvonne Harding   | 1st Christleton            | Craig Turnbull          | Centurion Network    |
| Oliver Harding   | Dewa ESU                   | Mark Turnbull           | Centurion Network    |
| Matthew Heath    | 1st Upton-by-Chester       | Martin Turner           | 25th Chester         |
| Sophie Henderson | 1st Guilden Sutton         | Rob Turner              | 25th Chester         |
| Charly Hillier   | 40th Chester               | Hannah Turner           | Dewa ESU             |
| Joe Hollingworth | 42nd Chester               | Lesley Warburton        | 40th Chester         |
| Luke Howarth     | 1st Guilden Sutton         | Dale Warburton          | Dewa ESU             |
| Amy Hughes       | 42nd Chester               | Georgina West           | Dewa ESU             |
| June Hughes      | Fellowship                 | Matthew White           | 1st Upton-by-Chester |
| Nick Hirst       | Centurion Network          | Stephen White           | 1st Upton-by-Chester |
| Angela James     | Fellowship                 | Daniel Wilson           | 42nd Chester         |
| Jack Jolliffe    | 25th Chester               | Thomas Wilson           | Dewa ESU             |
| Dave Jones       | 25th Chester               | Paul Wolfendale         | 1st Upton-by-Chester |
| Rachel Jones     | 5th Blacon                 | James Wright            | Wolf ESU             |
| Kelly Jones      | 40th Chester               | Samuel Wrigglesworth    | 1st Upton-by-Chester |
| Pam Jones        | 40th Chester               |                         |                      |
| Trevor Jones     | 40th Chester               |                         |                      |

## MUSICIANS

Musical Director & Arranger: Colin Parfitt

David Parfitt

Louise Turner

John Collins

Larrissa Weaver

## CONTACTS

If you are interested in helping with the Show, or in becoming a Gang member, or you would like further information regarding Scouting in Chester, please contact one of the following by phone:

Richard Clarke (*Producer*) – (01244) 317100

Gerald Roose (*Chairman*) – (01244) 381538

Kath Kitchen (*District Commissioner*) – (01244) 379031



THE 1953 GANG

GANG MEMBER'S SOUVENIR COPY

W H Evans printed the programme for the first production of Chester's Gangshow in 1953 when it was known as *Scoutabout*.

Alfred Evans was the Managing Director of W H Evans and designed the programme as well as being part of the stage team. Enid Evans was a member of the costume team and their son, Gwyn, was in the cast.



*Alfred Evans*

Fifty years later Gwyn is the Managing Director of W H Evans and is delighted to donate the cost of reproducing this original programme as a small 'thankyou' for many happy years of Scouting.



*Gwyn Evans at the wheel of the 8th Chester Soapbox Derby Car 'The Chariot'*

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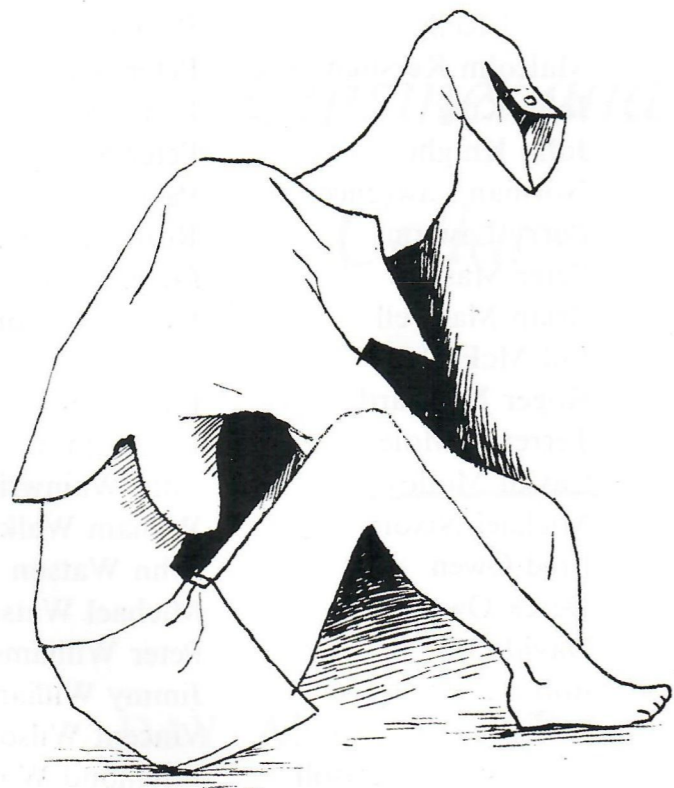
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Reg Astbury  
Bryan Atherton  
Dennis Atherton  
Cecil Barnett  
Dennis Bell  
Keith Brassington  
David Brickland  
Leslie Brooks  
Phil Chatwin  
Sydney Cooper  
Edward Cotgreave  
Fred Cowley  
Robin D'Arcy  
Graham Davies  
John Davies  
Robert Denson  
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Julian Duffield  
John Dunning  
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Trevor Ensell  
Glyn Evans  
Gwyn Evans  
Ivor Evans  
Bernard Evans  
Harold Faulkner  
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Graham Hartley  
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David Higgins  
Colin Hodgkinson  
David Hooper  
Lionel Hughes  
Tom Hughes  
Gordon Hutton  
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Alan James  
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David Kelly  
Malcolm Kershaw  
John King  
John Knight  
Norman Lawrence  
Barry Lawson  
Peter Massey  
Brian Maxwell  
Bill McFarlane  
Roger Millward  
Terrence Mole  
Cavan Molloy  
Michael Nixon  
Fred Owen  
Derek Owens  
David Oxley  
Bob Parren  
Peter Parry  
Christopher Plimsoll  
John Poole  
Colin Postles  
Noel Postles

Alan Povey  
Gordon Powell  
Michael Purcell  
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Peter Roberts  
Donald Robinson  
Tony Robinson  
Jim Roche  
Gerald Roose  
Grahame Ryder  
Stanley Speed  
Michael Serjeant  
Fred Shone  
Barry Smith  
John Smith  
Robin Smith  
Peter Spilsbury  
David Spruce  
Peter Sutcliffe  
Paul Swinnerton  
Robin Thomas  
George Thompson  
Kenneth Thompson  
Michael Topham  
Phil Turner  
Fred Upton  
Tom Wainwright  
William Walker  
John Watson  
Michael Watson  
Peter Williams  
Jimmy Williams  
Vincent Wilson  
Raymond Woodfine  
John Wright  
Christopher Wright  
Clive Youde

# PROGRAMME

One . . . . . IT'S A GREAT, GREAT GAME  
 Two . . . . . IF IT COMES TO THIS  
 Three . . . . . NEVER THE TWAIN  
 Four . . . . . BACK TO SCHOOL  
 Five . . . . . CUB CROPPER'S CONSCIENCE  
 Six . . . . . SPRING  
 Seven . . . . . THE BOY NEXT DOOR  
 Eight . . . . . LIFT UP YOUR HEARTS  
 INTERVAL



Nine . . . . . IT'S GREAT TO BE YOUNG  
 Ten . . . . . A PROPHET IN HIS OWN  
 Eleven . . . . . OUR ALPHABET  
 Twelve . . . . . THE GARDEN PARTY  
 Thirteen . . . . . BACK TO GILWELL  
 Fourteen . . . . . INFANT PRODIGY  
 Fifteen . . . . . JACK AND THE BEANSTALK  
 Sixteen . . . . . CHOIRBOYS  
 Seventeen . . . . . FINALE  
 THE QUEEN



*At the Pianos:*

RICHARD JONES    ROBERT LEWIS



## ***About the show . . .***

WELCOME to SCOUTABOUT 1953. We hope that you will enjoy it. Our aim has been to entertain you and we shall be satisfied if that aim is achieved. SCOUTABOUT is planned on the lines of Ralph Reader's GANG SHOWS and we are greatly indebted to him for many of the sketches and songs included in our programme. We want to express our sincere thanks to all of those who have so willingly come forward to help ; some of them parents of the boys ; some in no way connected with Scouting. May we say THANK YOU to the Dean and Chapter for the use of the Refectory ; to Miss Hilda Catherall for her invaluable assistance in the booking of seats ; to that grand team of workers under Mrs. Robinson and Mrs. Watson who have designed and made most of the costumes ; to Miss Banks and her Make-Up Team ; to our Pianists, Mr. Jones and Mr. Lewis, whose work with the show started weeks ago ; to those two grand chaps, John Harrison and Donald Robinson, whose help and advice we appreciate more than we can say ; to the Governors of the College School, where most of the rehearsals have been held ; and to everyone else who has given us a helping hand. We hope to raise a substantial sum for the King George VI. Memorial Fund—and we have been delighted with the way in which this production has brought together the members of the two Groups ; they have worked well together ! We shall be very surprised if you are not invited in about twelve months time to see SCOUTABOUT 1954.

### **WE ALSO ACKNOWLEDGE:—**

*Signs :* HAROLD FAULKNER.

*Amplifying Equipment :* MILTON'S RADIO SERVICE.

*Pianos :* MESSRS. RUSHWORTH & DREAPER LTD., CHESTER.

*Materials for Costumes :* MESSRS. T. G. BURRELL LTD, CHESTER.

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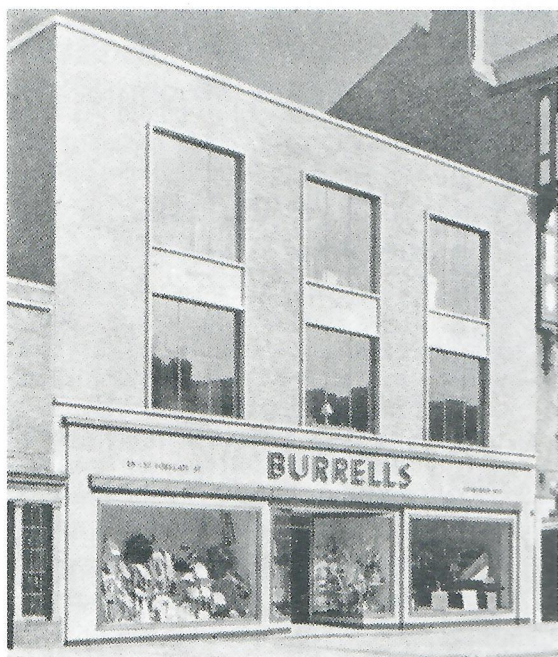
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# BEHIND THE SCENES

## Production Team

LESLIE BROOKS.      JIM ROCKE.      FRED COWLEY.

## Stage Team

*Stage Manager :* JOHN HARRISON.

*Assistant Stage Manager :* SYDNEY COOPER.

ALFRED EVANS.      DEREK OWENS.      BARRY SMITH.  
GORDON HUTTON.      HARRY SHONE.      FRANK TURNER.

## Settings

GEORGE THOMPSON.      VINCENT WILSON.      BARRY SMITH.

## Lighting

DAVID WILLIAMSON.      TOM WAINWRIGHT.

## Costumes

*Wardrobe Mistress :* MABELLE ROBINSON.

*Wardrobe Mistress :* LILIAN WATSON.

|                  |                   |                   |
|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| VIOLET ATHERTON. | DOROTHY HARRISON. | FRANCES MASSEY.   |
| EVALINE BEHAN.   | FLORENCE HART.    | AMY NEWTON.       |
| LILIAN BLAKE.    | ANNE HEALEY.      | SALLIE PURCELL.   |
| MAY DAVIES.      | EDITH KELLY.      | MABEL SHONE.      |
| EDITH ELLISON.   | EDITH KERSHAW.    | MARY TURNER.      |
| ENID EVANS.      | HEATHERBELL KING. | CATHERINE WALKER. |
| ETHEL FAULKNER.  |                   | MARY WOODFINE.    |

## Make-Up Team

ROSAMUND BANKS.

MESDAMES M. ASTLE, R. BEAL, R. CALLOWAY, R. JONES,  
I. LAWES, H. JOBLING, M. MENDHAM.

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*Hall Manager :* TOM HUGHES.

*Assistant Hall Manager :* GEORGE KING.

*Business Manager :* ROBIN D'ARCY.

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# How Did We End-up Where We Are Now?

"Gang Show" is often regarded as something at the lunatic fringe of Scouting, populated and run by a band of hand picked or self selected eccentrics. I once discussed this topic with Roy Fisher (our Producer for 32 years) and he related a conversation that was said to have taken place between Baden Powell and Ralph Reader after the first performance of his first Gang Show in 1932. Such was its impact at the time that BP is reported as saying, "Ralph, we have something here, we must not lose it." Not to be left out, in 1938 the 8th and 13th Chester Groups joined forces and put on a Gang Show style of performance for three nights at the College School, Parkgate Road. It was produced by Leslie Brooks, G.S.M. of the 13th, and called Nutcracker: It was a pilot show for a future District Gang Show but these plans were frustrated by the outbreak of World War Two.

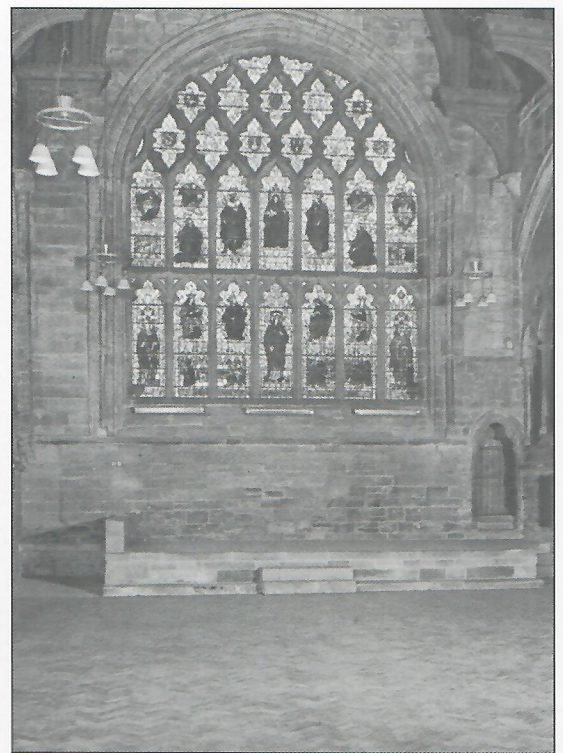
The London Gang Show, written and produced by Ralph Reader was revived in 1951 and a party of leaders from the 8th. and 13th. Chester Groups went to see it. They were so inspired that they decided to stage something similar. The combined strength of the two Groups provided a Gang of 112 plus all the necessary stewards and stage staff. This show ran for three performances & was staged in the Cathedral Refectory in January 1953. It was so successful, that the 1st. Upton Group was invited to add its numbers to those of the 8th and 13th, and the 1954 show ran for six nights.

The success of this third show was such that the District took over the responsibility and it was decided to involve all the Groups in Chester and District and hire the Royalty Theatre in City Road. This was done, and the first truly District Gang Show, "Scoutabout 1956", was staged in that December, running for one week. Eighteen of the Gang were Cubs who for the first time had their own item.

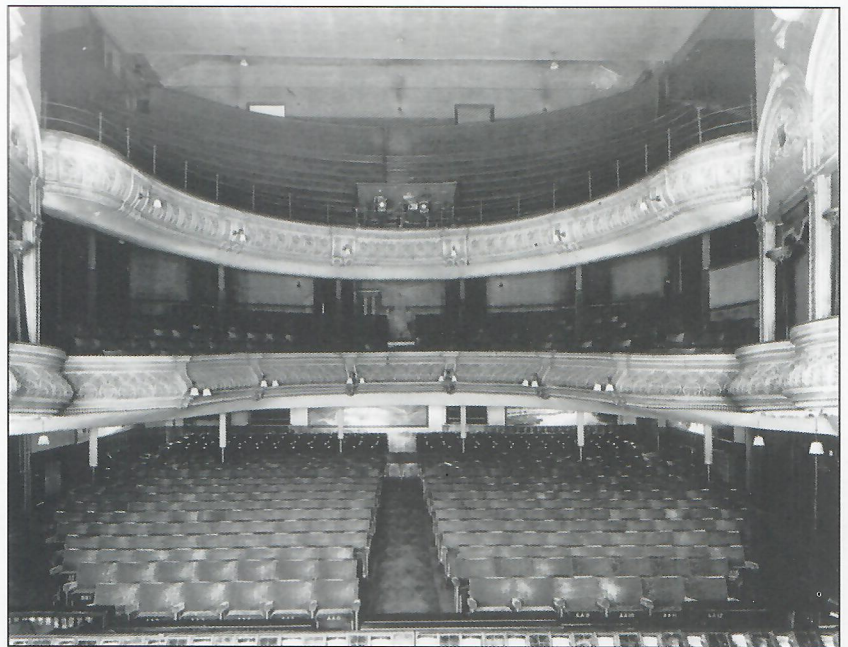
Despite all the efforts of the management (particularly Dennis Critchley), economics forced the closure of the Royalty Theatre in 1966 and Scoutabout was obliged to look for a new home. This was found at the A.B.C. (Regal) Cinema in Foregate Street. Hiring the cinema set a number of new challenges which had to be considered very carefully. The rental was much higher & the auditorium of 2000 seats was twice that of the Royalty: there was no fly gallery and only one backcloth rail, amplification was a problem and there was very little dressing room accommodation. However, it was thought that we could cope & even fill the cinema for six performances during the first week in the New Year. The ingenuity of the stage team solved all the technical problems and the show was put on starting on a Tuesday for five nights.

It was a success so it was decided to hire the cinema for the corresponding week in 1968 but ticket sales were poor and for the first time the show lost money. The facilities at the newly opened Gateway Theatre and the support and encouragement offered by the Theatre Director Julian Oldfield and his staff, convinced our committee to try again & the Gateway Theatre was booked for a production in 1969. Following a lead set by Ralph Reader himself, girls then joined the Gang & we have performed annually at this theatre for the past 35 years.

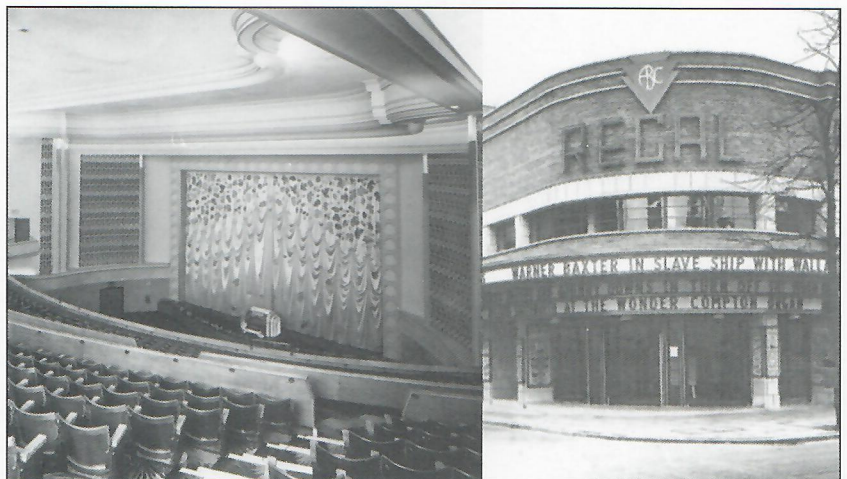
*Gerald Roose, with acknowledgments for original archive material provided by Roy Fisher.*



Cathedral Refectory in January 1953



The Royalty Theatre in City Road, Chester c.1950



The A.B.C. (Regal) Cinema in Foregate Street.



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The Eastgate, Chester



# CHESTER GANG SHOW 2004

## First HALF

- 1 Celebration!
- 2 Turkish Delight
- 3 Over The Rainbow
- 4 Cat's
- 5 If I Were Not Upon This Stage
- 6 The Owls
- 7 Germs
- 8 Sparkling Diamonds

There will be an Interval of 15 minutes

No photography in the Auditorium please.  
Gang Show is based on an idea, and using material,  
by the late Ralph Reader CBE

## Second HALF

- 1 Street Life
- 2 All The King's People
- 3 French For Beginners
- 4 Weekend In The Country
- 5 Daze of the Knights
- 6 БОЙНА И МИР
- 7 Talking Old Gang Shows
- 8 Closer To Believing
- 9 Best of Times

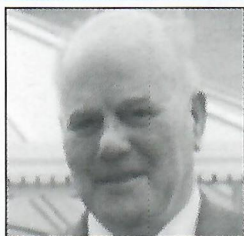
On Thursday evening 12th February 2004 we extend a cordial welcome to Her Worship the Sheriff of Chester,  
Councillor Sandra Rudd & Consort Councillor Bob Rudd;  
The Worshipful, The Mayor of the Borough of Macclesfield Councillor Joan Barnes & her Consort Hon. Alderman Alan Barnes;  
The Chairman of Cheshire County Council, Councillor Nora Dolphin & Consort Hon. Alderman Frank Dolphin;  
The Chief Constable of Cheshire, Mr. Peter Fahy QPM & Mrs. Jenny Fahy;  
also Eddie Johnson, County Commissioner for Cheshire & Mrs Margaret Johnson;  
County Councillor Bert Grange, Vice President of Cheshire County Scout Council & Mrs. Celia Grange;  
Mrs Kath Kitchen, District Commissioner for Chester & Mr. Robert Kitchen; Frank Marnell,  
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# The Art Gallery

## ROY FISHER



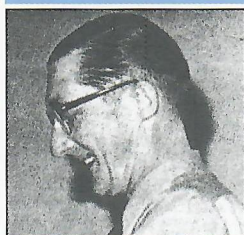
Roy was the second producer of "Scoutabout", as Chester Gang Show was originally known, having taken over from Leslie Brooks in 1958, after a break due to alterations at the Royalty Theatre (City Road, Chester). He became a legend in his own lifetime, known to generations of youngsters as science teacher at Chester College School and then Kingsway High School. Notwithstanding all the pressures as a schoolmaster, Roy carried his job outside to become a hobby, initially as the Group Scout Leader at the 8th Chester Scout Group, then concurrently as Gang Show Producer for a total of 32 years. (This is a record that he shared with Ralph Reader.) Without his stoical dedication and perseverance, it is doubtful whether we could have maintained our annual output for as long as we have. Roy was a holder of the Medal of Merit for services to Scouting; he was cheerful, gregarious and a product of the pioneering days of the movement. To coin a phrase, they don't make them like him any more.

## BILLY BRICKLAND



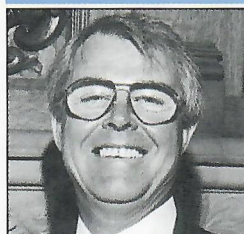
Billy Brickland was born and raised in Chester. He became well known on the local dance band circuit before and during the Second World War and his prowess on the piano was second to none. It was said that he was offered jobs playing in the entertainment World of London in the 1920s/30s but he preferred to operate in and around Chester. His and the band's association with "Scoutabout" started with the second show in the Cathedral Refectory in February 1954, the first having been accompanied by Richard Jones and Robert Lewis on two pianos. His abilities as a musician were often put to the test as he managed to change key or transpose music by ear as the inexperienced on stage wandered in and out of tune. His smiling face was always there in the pit as we moved on to the Royalty, to the ABC and finally the Gateway Theatre. In 1965 he even became MD of Coventry Gang Show, plus others in the Midlands, staying with Roy Fisher during his annual stint in Chester. Bill was a character and certainly lived life in the fast lane, staying with "Scoutabout" until forced to retire due to ill health in 1979. He was awarded the Medal of Merit for his 25 years of support, help and service.

## BILL COOPER



"Bill" as he was known throughout the District first became involved with Scouting in 1950 as an instructor with the 32nd Chester Scout Group. In 1954, he became our District Secretary and then in 1969 the District Commissioner for the next six years. His involvement with "Scoutabout" started in 1954 and by 1956 he had graduated via House Manager to Business & Booking Secretary, finally adding the responsibility of Show Treasurer; commitments he reluctantly relinquished due to ill health in 1993. Ever dapper, during the week of the show Bill would be in attendance, hair immaculately Brylcreemed and always adorned in dress suit and black tie. He even found time to appear in the show! For his services to Scouting, Bill was awarded the Medal of Merit in 1965 and the Silver Acorn in 1979.

## KEITH MUSSELLE



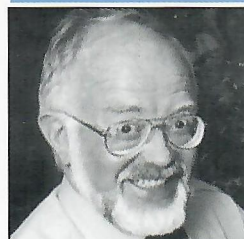
Keith was born in Rhyl and then moved to Hawarden, joining the local church Scout Group when he was twelve. His work eventually brought him to Chester and in 1971 he became a leader with the 1st Saughall Scout Group, then an ADC in 1984 and he finally became District Commissioner in 1988, serving until 1996. Keith, who by now had been drawn into "Scoutabout" as Gang organiser, took over from Roy Fisher as Executive Producer in 1980 and was assisted by Derek Jackson and Eric Wilson. He was also adept at performing on stage and starred as our original compère in Michael Bentine's "French for Beginners" which is receiving a second airing this year. He remained in Scouting until his death in 1998, working mostly on the Cheshire Hike and was awarded the long service decoration and bar, the Medal of Merit (1988) and the Silver Acorn (1996).

## DEREK JACKSON



Derek was born in Bromborough on the Wirral and joined the Scouting Movement as a 'Wolf Cub' in the 5th Bebington Group and eventually became Scout Leader of the 13th. Bebington (St. Barnabas') Group. He became ADC (LT) in the District and was soon involved as a Leader Trainer with the County Training Team. He also helped with the Leader Training Course at Gilwell Park where he gained a love of Camp Fires and travelled quite widely as a 'Guest Camp Fire Leader'. Whilst studying at Chester College he was SL of the 40th Chester and on moving to Chester he was 'volunteered' to help at the 25th Chester (Oldfield) Group and eventually became District Commissioner. When Roy Fisher retired, Derek joined forces with Keith Musselle and Eric Wilson to co-produce Scoutabout and took responsibility for the musical side of the shows from 1979 – 1986. In 1985 he was awarded the Silver Acorn for services to the Scouting Movement.

## ERIC WILSON



Eric joined The Gang in 1957 as one of the backstage crew and before long was on stage as one of the all-singing all-dancing cast. Gradually his skill as a dancer came to the fore and he was persuaded to become an Assistant Producer and Choreographer (a job he enjoyed), until his untimely death in 1997.

Eric's sense of fun and humour was always very much in evidence; his ideas and contributions to the more light-hearted items played an important part in the success of the show over many years. He was awarded the Medal of Merit for services to Scouting in December 1988.

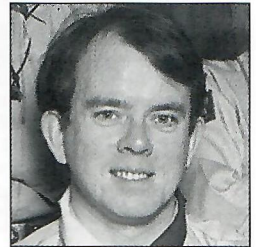
## MATTHEW DAVIES

"Fifty years don't seem a long time when you're having fun". Yes that's one of the songs that Ralph Reader wrote for Gang Shows to use worldwide. Congratulations Chester on reaching your 50th anniversary. I joined the show back in 1989 not knowing what I was letting myself in for, eventually finding myself dressed as a Policeman, a Magician, a Tramp and even in my Birthday Suit (well almost!!). Finally, in 1996 I took over the 'Hot Seat' as Producer, I must have been mad! But with the support of so many people, I'm glad that I have been able to help make the show a success and have been around to watch it grow from strength to strength. Well done Chester! Here's to the next 50 years!



## RICHARD CLARKE

It all went wrong when I joined the Cubs back in '73. Initial plans for a life of debauchery went up in (wood)smoke as I discovered the simple pleasures of backwoods cooking, camping and the outdoor life. Despite years of desperate adventures on camp, among mountains and on the high seas, the anticipation of Opening Night still produces fear and excitement in equal measure - not even running a Scout Troop or (latterly) a Venture Scout Unit can compare with Gang Show!



## COLIN PARFITT

Colin was born and bred in the Wrexham area, where still at school, he obtained his first music diploma. He has worked professionally with Lenny Henry and David Copperfield, and, as a free-lance pianist, has more recently performed for Martine McCutcheon, Sir Alex Ferguson and Sir Norman Wisdom. He is Head of Music at Blacon High School, Chester, from where he draws most of his musicians for the show, though most people think he should stick to music. His achievements in music education were recognised in April 2000, when he was invited to a reception with the Queen, at Buckingham Palace. He has been MD of the show for 24 years.



## ERIC PLENDERLEATH

Eric, a Geordie by birth, was in the Newcastle Gang Show as far back as 1947. He came to Chester in 1969 and restarted Scouting in Tarvin. He was District Commissioner from 1975 - 1981 and from 1982 - 1999 he played an active part in the production of Chester's Gang Show in various roles such as Gang Co-ordinator, Assistant Producer and Business Committee Chairman - appearing from time to time on stage!

Since his "retirement" in 1999, he has continued his interest, acting as a "sounding board" for the much overworked Chairman! Having performed on stage as Mayor of Chester in 1988, it was a great honour for us to welcome him to the show in 2000 as the actual Lord Mayor of Chester on Civic Night.



## GEOFF MORRIS

Geoff joined the Scouts when he was about 12, but he really made his name as a stalwart of the old Chester District Rover Crew. He appeared in various shows at the Royalty Theatre over 40 years ago and then at the ABC. He aspired to his present role as our Stage Director in 1973 (at this theatre) via his early backstage experience and then as a projectionist working for Charlie Jones at the ABC (originally "The Regal"). He has worked with many other local amateur societies in his time, gaining the reputation as the most professional amateur Stage Director in the business.



## GERALD ROOSE

I joined the 8th Chester Scout Group in 1948 and became a member of the Gang in the first show at the Cathedral Refectory in 1953. As a Senior Scout and then as a Leader for about 20 years at the 8th with Roy Fisher, there was really no credible outcome other than 50 years involvement with the stage, either on it or behind the scenes producing "noises off" in various local theatres.

Having retired and become Business Committee Chairman, I am now fully occupied in persuading the good burghers of Chester to part with cash to help make it all happen. It just goes to show that once inside the Scout Movement, whatever you are interested in or excel at (within reason!), there is scope to allow your aspirations (or even eccentricities) to develop and flourish. Not only that, but there is most probably a badge to be won for doing it. You don't get service like that everywhere.



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# The Team BEHIND THE GANG

## PRODUCTION TEAM

Producer: **Richard Clarke**  
Musical Director: **Colin Parfitt**  
Assistant Musical Director: **Tim Dowson**  
Directors and Choreographers: **Vicki Courtney, Rachel Jones, Vanessa Coates, Jim Woodley, David Jones, Cat Taker, Trevor Jones, John Lambert, Angela James, Helen Pulford, Mark Turnbull, Richard Clarke**  
Gang Organiser/Blababout Editor: **Mike Kerrich**  
Guest Choreographers: **Matthew Randles (Turkish Delight), Sheila Myers (War & Peace)**  
Wrangler: **Matthew Davies**

## TECHNICAL SUPPORT

Stage Director: **Geoff Morris**  
Lighting Design: **Jim Woodley**  
(Professional Member of *The Association of Lighting Designers*)  
Amplification and SFX: **Wim Roose, assisted by Gerald Roose**  
Scenery Manager: **Bob Johnson**

## FOR GANG SHOW

Chairman: **Gerald Roose**  
Vice-Chairman: **Alison Johnson**  
Secretary: **Pam Jones**  
Treasurer: **Ron Jackson**  
Financial Team: **Ron Jackson, David Lloyd & Gerald Roose**  
Sponsorship & Donations: **Angela James & Gerald Roose**  
Booking Secretary: **Alison Johnson**  
Marketing/Publicity: **Alison Johnson, Gill Owen & Tim Johnson**  
Scout District Publicity: **Michael Kerrich**  
Press Officer/Advertising: **David King**  
Web-site Creation & Maintenance: **William Roose**  
Patrons: **Gerald Roose & Eric Plenderleath**  
Programme Co-ordination: **Gerald Roose**  
Programme Advertising: **Peter Slater, June Hughes & David King**  
Front of House Arrangements: **Peter Slater assisted by members of Chester & District Scout Council & Scout Fellowship**  
Raffle: Organised & Promoted by **Pam Jones**  
Catering: **Denise Huxley**

## CREDITS

CELEBRATION! - Devised and directed by **Vicki Courtney**  
GERMS - Author unknown; edited and directed by **David Jones, Vicki Courtney and Helen Pulford**  
OVER THE RAINBOW - Written by **Rachel Jones & John Lambert**; directed by **Vanessa Coates**  
CAT'S - Devised and directed by **Cat Taker**  
IF I WERE NOT UPON THIS STAGE - Author unknown; directed by **Trevor Jones**  
DAZE OF THE KNIGHTS - Written and directed by **John Lambert**  
THE OWLS - Written by **Ralph Reader**; directed by **Richard Clarke**  
TURKISH DELIGHT - Written by **Rolf Harris**; directed by **Dave Jones, Vicki Courtney and Helen Pulford**  
SPARKLING DIAMONDS - Devised and directed by **Rachel Jones**, based on **Baz Luhrmann's Moulin Rouge**  
STREET LIFE - Written and directed by **John Lambert**  
ALL THE KING'S PEOPLE - Adapted and directed by **John Lambert**  
FRENCH FOR BEGINNERS - Written by **Michael Bentine**; directed by **Richard Clarke**  
WEEKEND IN THE COUNTRY - Devised and directed by **Jim Woodley**  
WAR & PEACE - Devised by **Vanessa Coates and Tim Dowson**; directed by **Vanessa Coates**  
TALKING OLD GANG SHOWS - Written and directed by **John Lambert**, based on an original idea by **M Python, Esq**  
CLOSER TO BELIEVING - Devised and directed by **Jim Woodley**  
BEST OF TIMES - Devised and directed by **Richard Clarke**

## MUSIC CREDITS

CELEBRATION - Words & music by **Robert Bell, Ronald Bell, George Brown, Robert Mickens, Claydes Smith, James Taylor, Dennis Thomas, Earl Toone and Eumir Deodato**  
DISCO INFERNO - Words & music by **Leroy Green and Ron Kersey**  
GERMS - Music: **Tim Dowson**; Lyrics unknown, heard in **Urmston and Alderley Gang Shows**  
IF I WERE NOT UPON THIS STAGE - Unknown  
DAZE OF THE KNIGHTS - Words by **John Lambert**; music by **Tim Dowson**  
THE COURT OF KING CARACTACUS - Words & music by **Rolf Harris**  
NATURE BOY - Words & music by **Eden Ahbez**  
SPARKLING DIAMONDS - Words & music by **Jules Styne, Leo Robin, Peter H Brown, Robert S Rans**  
RHYTHM OF THE NIGHT - Words & music by **Dianne Warren**  
YOUR SONG - Words & music by **Elton John and Bernie Taupin**  
SPECTACULAR SPECTACULAR - Music by **Jacques Offenbach**, arranged by **Colin Parfitt**;

Scenery Design and Construction: **Bob Johnson, Vernon Hitchen, Steve Huxley, Mel Owen, Mel Hall, Bev Hall, Daniel Coates, Russell Price, Alison Johnson, Tim Johnson, Simon Johnson, Kate Johnson, Tom Coates, Gary Warburton**  
Transport Crew: **Mark Gray, Iain McLaren**  
Stage Crew: **Bob Johnson, Mel Hall, Mel Owen, Steve Huxley, Ken Barton, Tim Johnson, Russell Price, Daniel Coates, Chris Marnell, Catherine Evison, Pete Churchill, Roger Hewitt, Chris Hall, Martin Formstone, Gary Warburton, Mark Davies**  
Backstage Security: **Steve Shone, Steve Lewis**  
Photographer: **Dave Mullock**

## ARTISTIC SUPPORT

Wardrobe Mistress: **Pam Jones**  
Costume Design and Construction: **Pam Jones, Vanessa Coates, Karen Warburton, Rachel Kevern, Joan Hunt, Yvonne Harding**  
Dressers: **Sandra Taker, Dawn Steaton, Vanessa Coates, Karen Warburton, Janet Leech, Jo Turner and District Cub Leaders**  
Make-up: **Joy Hughes, Joanne Wellings**  
Properties: **Charlotte Churchill and Robert Hewitt**  
Rehearsal Refreshments: **Denise Huxley (a.k.a Mrs Potts)**

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## FOR CHESTER & DISTRICT

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Chairman: **Frank Marnell**  
Secretary: **Charlotte Churchill**  
Treasurer: **John Riley**

EL TANGO DE ROXANNE - Music & words by **Sting, Marianito Mores, Baz Luhrmann and Craig Pearce**  
COME WHAT MAY - Words & music by **David Baerwald**  
UPTOWN GIRL - Words & music by **Billy Joel**  
WE GOTTA GET OUT OF THIS PLACE - Words & music by **Barry Mann and Cynthia Weil**  
TONIGHT - Words by **Stephen Sondheim**; music by **Leonard Bernstein**  
RHYTHM OF LIFE - Words by **Dorothy Fields**, music by **Cy Coleman**  
ARE YOU LONESOME TONIGHT - Words & music by **Roy Turk and Lou Handman**  
GOD SAVE OUR NOBLE CZAR - Words & music by **A Lwoff**  
MOSCOW NIGHTS - Music by **V Soloviev-Sedoy**  
COSSACK PATROL - Music: traditional; words by **Tommie Connor**  
WHEN THE TANKS ROLL BY - Words & music by **Lin Marsh**  
WIND OF CHANGE - Words & music by **Klaus Meine**  
KALINKA - Traditional Russian folk song, arr **Thomas B Pitfield**  
WE'VE ONLY JUST BEGUN - Words & music by **Roger Nicholls**  
TONIGHT'S THE NIGHT - Words & music by **Jose Primo, John Sexton**  
BEST OF TIMES - Words & music by **Jerry Herman**  
GOING HOME, THESE ARE THE TIMES, DREAMBOAT, TOGETHER, BIRDS OF A FEATHER, WE'LL GO ON AND ON, THREE CHEERS, GREAT GREAT GAME AND CREST OF A WAVE  
Words & music: **Ralph Reader**

## RECORDED MUSIC

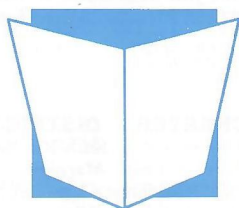
EVERYBODY - **Backstreet Boys**  
YOU DRIVE ME CRAZY - **Britney Spears**  
DIRTY POP - **N\*Sync**, DIRTY - **Christina Aguilera**  
BYE BYE BYE - **N\*Sync**  
CAN'T GET YOU OUT OF MY HEAD - **Kylie Minogue**  
LET ME ENTERTAIN YOU - **Robbie Williams**  
BECAUSE WE CAN - Words & music by **Norman Cook**; performed by **Fatboy Slim & Jim Broadbent**  
A LITTLE GOSSIP - Words & music by **Mitch Lee**; backing track by **Steve Borthwick**  
EXTRAORDINARY - Words & music by **Stephen Schwartz**; backing track by **Steve Borthwick**  
A WEEKEND IN THE COUNTRY - Words & music by **Stephen Sondheim**; backing track by **Steve Borthwick**  
CLOSER TO BELIEVING - Words & music by **Greg Lake**; performed by **Greg Lake**

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