

Audience well and truly rocked in aisles

NEWS DIGEST

MALVERN Light Opera Society had the audience well and truly rocking in the aisles with their excellent production of Summer Holiday.

Full of enthusiasm, Peter Davis' show was thoroughly enjoyable as the talented cast brought the stage adaptation of Cliff Richard's 1963 film to life with foot-tapping numbers from start to finish. Although

REVIEW

SUMMER HOLIDAY, MALVERN THEATRES

Eric Price (Don) was not the strongest in the lead role, he was more than ably supported by Marcus Delorenzo (Cyril), James Stockall (Edwin) and, in particular, Jonathon D Stephens (Steve) as his fellow London bus mechanics.

The quartet take off on a trip around Europe where they meet stranded singers Becky Thomas (Alma), Sophie Mclellan (Mimsie) and the bubbly Aisha Cummings (Angie) and offer to take them to their next gig in Athens.

En route, they are joined by the vocally impressive Sara-Luisa Hicks as American singer Barbara who initially disguises herself as a boy to

escape the clutches of her fame-driven mother Stella.

Stella (Liz Mclean) and comical agent Jerry, wonderfully played by Andrew Bartlett, follow the group across the continent, concocting various schemes to get her back, before Barbara and Don fall in love.

The high-energy complex dance routines, choreographed by Claire

Kramer, were superb and Mat Jones' five-strong band was in fine form, providing the backing for more than 20 songs throughout at the Festival Theatre. A special mention must also go to the set designers for the delightful Postman Pat-esque cardboard bus and Bartlett's inspired maraca-shaking during the finale.

STEVE CARLEY

Treat for carers

PEOPLE who dedicate themselves to looking after others will soon get a well-deserved treat.

The Worcestershire Association of Carers is inviting anyone who looks after a relative, friend or neighbour to relax and unwind at a one-off pamper and healthy living day at Evesham Town Hall on Thursday, April 10.

Admission is free for all unpaid carers. From 10am to 2pm, there will be beauty treatments, massages, make-overs, and health checks available, along with advice on caring and treats to take home.

For more information call 01905 26500.

Poetry competition

WOULD-be poets from Worcestershire are being urged to enter the UK's biggest free poetry competition. The aim of the annual National Poetry Anthology contest is to discover new talent. Local residents who make the shortlist will receive a free copy of the book and the overall winner will get £1,000.

Aspiring writers should send three unpublished poems on any subject – up to 20 lines and 160 words each – to United Press Ltd, Admail 3735, London, EC1B 1JB. The closing date for entries is Monday, June 30. For more information visit www.unitedpress.co.uk.

New tourism guide

A BRAND new tourism guide for Worcestershire will soon hit bookshops.

The authors of the Landmark Visitors Guide to Severn & Avon hope to encourage more visitors to the region. Their book features itineraries that will take tourists through the county, from the ruins of Witley Court, in Great Witley, to historic pubs like the Fleece Inn at Bretforton, near Evesham.

The guide, priced £9.99, will be in bookshops at the end of April.

Pilot takes to the skies to help in Mozambique

Fund-raiser uses helicopter to survey flood-ravaged country for Christian charity

BY LAUREN ROGERS
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A FUND-raising pilot has flown around Mozambique to help communities affected by floods which ravage the country. Clive Langmead, of Beacon Road, Malvern, visited the African country to help a life-long friend establish a Christian charity, Wings Like Eagles, which they hope will support families isolated by floods.

The 55-year-old former BBC producer, who attends All Saints Church in Deansway, Worcester, embarked on a challenging helicopter survey, flying over often flood-ravaged areas of the country.

"I first suggested to my friend, Adrian Nance, that I fly him round when I looked at the map," said Mr Langmead.

"It is a vast country, stretching 1,200 miles north to south, from South Africa to Tanzania.

"Then I thought how appropriate it would be to go by helicopter – the aircraft he intends to use for the aid work.

"We really learned a great deal about such operations first-hand as we travelled.

"I believe the support and prayers of the All Saints congregation was vital to our safety and the success of our survey."

Mr Nance, a former Navy captain of HMS Ark Royal, set up Wings Of Eagles in response to the country's flood disasters and the need for aid to reach stranded communities within days not months.

For their trip Mr Langmead converted his private pilot's licence to a South African standard and hired a small Robinson R-44 helicopter.

They flew across the country, meeting aid workers from Oxfam, USAid and Mission Aviation Fellowship along the way. "Fuel was always a problem", said Mr Langmead. "We had to carry extra cans



Clive Langmead and Adrian Nance with the helicopter they used to survey flood ravaged Mozambique for a Christian charity.

in the back due to the long distances, and though the weather was good most of the time, the rain did push us down low over the palms and we followed roads when we couldn't see the coast.

"It was quite an adventure but we met a lot of very helpful people – both in the aviation community, which is quite small – and among aid workers and business folk. The operating potential is definitely there."

The charity hopes its helicopter will be able to provide aid during the rainy season of January to March and earn a commercial living from tourism and normal trade during the rest of the year.

To find out more about the charity visit www.wingslikeeagles.net

EASTER BANK HOLIDAYS

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