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## Nigel Finch

Nigel first joined CPYT in our production of Les Misérables way back in 2005. Over the years, he became an integral member of the organisation both as our Resident Musical Director and Treasurer. Nigel passed away peacefully at Mountbatten Hospice early in the morning of Wednesday 3rd August 2022 with his friends by his side. As many people were aware, Nigel had battled with declining health these last eighteen months in his usual upbeat and uncomplaining way. He showed such strength and bravery and never gave in, even attending a Little Shop of Horrors rehearsal as recently as 4 days before. We are so proud of him. Nigel was a kind, tireless and hugely integral part of many of our lives, equally generous with his time and with his huge musical talent. He will leave a big empty space at the piano and in our hearts and we will all miss him dreadfully.

Nigel was a prime mover in am dram and his impact on lives was immeasurable. The pivot to many societies and the gravity that drew them together in their shared passion, galactic central point to our little constellation. He was known and respected by hundreds and secretly revered by those of us lucky enough to call him friend (of course we would never tell him). Musical ability was the prize he was dealt by birth but it is too easy to assume that it was always bound to be so, forgetting the practice, the dedication, the dull work of

preparation that made everything come together so seamlessly and the melodies flow. He could have kept it all to himself or shared it only with his fellow sages but there was nothing exclusive about him. He doled out his gift with generosity and spent it willingly on us all. Utterly competent, the expert who didn't let you down. A cornerstone has fallen out of our shared world and it will take a drive reminiscent of the man himself to keep it all going now.

Nigel could indeed count himself amongst the great and the good of local theatre and possibly the greatest of them all. He seemed to us ordinary folk a virtuoso talent and he was the maestro, with Einstein hair to match. He looked the part, didn't hold back and took no hostages.

He was many things: A connoisseur of rhubarb crumble, a night owl, a party animal, a dotting cat lover and push over to KoKo who dined luxuriously on Sheba, a mystery shopper extraordinaire, terrorising Pizza Huts up and down the land. Patient. Impatient. A geocaching mega-enthusiast with an astonishing number of finds. He was a tousle-haired impresario in the pit but a meticulous bureaucrat on committee, the treasurer of seemingly every society, impatient for show reports and with a complete command of the finance.

So much has been said already of the last, sad, stirring chapter of Nigel's story. To say we were proud of him is mere understatement, to say we were



honoured to know him is not enough. He faced his declining health head on, pragmatically, ever stoical and uncomplaining of his luck, thinking of the good of others more so than ever and his bravery was nearly impossible to bear. He lived a rich, a full and a good life and was the generous genius that brought music to many.

Farewell to a friend who played more right notes with his little finger than most of us will ever sing properly in our lifetimes. Thank you for everything, more than we can say. For the fun, for the belief. All performances will be in your memory now. Your baton, your glasses and your Rioja are still in the pit where they belong - but they are not you. Goodbye kind, catty, worthy, "don't-give-an-inch" Nigel Finch. He finally left us to the sounds of the Beautiful Blue Danube by Johann Strauss II and took his bow with unflinching timing and flamboyance to the final, glorious flourish of that great work. It was, as was all of it really, a performance he could have justly looked upon with a smile, taking off his specs and nodding in his uniquely Nigel way, "awesome."

*Edited from words originally written by  
Louis Spencer*

## Family and Cast News

### September Birthdays

Ashley Mullen  
Becky Starks  
Florence Osman  
Abigail Walker  
Izzy Li  
Abigail Burfield  
Daisy Standfield  
Graeme Harris-Scott

### October Birthdays

Scott Broomfield  
Alan Pawley  
Emily Butler  
Emily Neal  
Zephie Murchie  
Caitlin Morris  
Eloise Morris  
Joshua Stephen  
Keira Loveridge  
Charlie Archer-Scott  
Aster Smith  
Elsa Mitchell

### November Birthdays

Grace Hadley  
Mabel Tomkins  
Marina Whitcher  
Emma Hatherell  
Chloe Leech

**CONGRATULATIONS** Gracie J Hales who is returning to Brighton to complete her degree in Musical Theatre.

**CONGRATULATIONS** to Emily Tilston who is off to Winchester University to study Law.

**CONGRATULATIONS** to Ella Rich who is going to Bournemouth University to study Event Management.

**CONGRATULATIONS** to Hannah Sherman who is going to Cardiff University to study Marine Geography

Please contact Mike if you have anything that can go into this feature for December 2022's edition.



# CATS

## CATS the Musical

We are very much looking forward to the beginning of our next major project. In a nutshell, CATS tells the story of a tribe of cats called the Jellicles and the night they make the 'Jellicle choice' by deciding which cat will ascend to the Heavyside Layer and come back to a new life.

### Key Dates

Fri 9th September	Launch Event	The Arch	6.00pm - 8.00pm
Sun 11th September	Pre-Audition Workshop	The Arch	2.00pm - 5.00pm
Sun 18th September	Auditions	The Arch	9.30am - 6.00pm
Sun 25th September	Rehearsals begin	The Arch	2.00pm - 6.00pm
Sun 12th - Sat 18th February 2023	Production Week	The Point	

## Summer Social

On Sunday 28th August, CPYT held a Summer Social at The Arch. It was a lovely afternoon and the turnout was great. Thanks to those who came down and we hope this is the start of many more similar events.



## Communication

We are making some slight adjustments to how we communicate with people as an organisation.

**WEBSITE** - This continues to be the hub of all information and we are working hard to try and ensure that this stays as up to date as possible.

**FACEBOOK** - Our main page is our public facing page and as such, the only information that will appear here is that which we want the general public to see. We have created a new group called 'CPYT Presents' which is where information etc will be posted. If you are a member or parent, then this group is a must.

**EMAIL** - This continues to be a key method of communication and we would ask that you keep us informed of any changes. These will often come from cpytchair@gmail.com or from our Love Admin email address. Please check Spam and Junk folders as there are often large numbers of emails left unread.

## Dates for the Diary...

**Monday 5th September 2022**

CPYT Academy restarts

**Wednesday 7th September 2022**

CPYT Juniors and Seniors restarts

CPYT Mini's launches

**Friday 9th September 2022**

CATS Launch Night  
1800 - 2000  
The Arch

**Sunday 11th September 2022**

CATS Pre-Audition Workshop  
1400 - 1700  
The Arch

**Sunday 18th September 2022**

CATS Auditions  
0900 - 1800  
The Arch

**Sunday 25th September 2022**

CATS Rehearsals begin  
1400 - 1800  
The Arch

**Mon 24th - Friday 28th October 2022**

HALF TERM WEEK  
No Weekly Sessions

**Saturday 29th October 2022**

Halloween Disco  
TBC  
The Arch

**Monday 31st October 2022**

CPYT Academy restarts  
The Arch

**Wednesday 2nd November 2022**

CPYT Mini's, Juniors and Seniors restart  
The Arch

**Saturday 19th November 2022**

Eastleigh Christmas Lights  
Switch On  
1000 - 1900

Eastleigh Town Centre

**Saturday 26th November 2022**

Romsey Winter Carnival  
TBC  
Crossfield Hall - Meeting point  
For more, please view the calendar on our website.

## Business Team

Our Business Team have made a huge difference to the organisation since their formation at the beginning of 2021. Recently, several parents have decided that they are no longer able to commit and so the group has shrunk in size.

It is our hope that this team will consist of a group of parents and friends of CPYT together with a couple of members from the Management Committee - think of it like a school PTA.

The remit of this team are things like fundraising and social events, seeking programme adverts and sponsorship. By joining you are not committing to having the entire workload put upon you but to help oversee and ensure that tasks are delegated to others.

If this is something you may be interested in, please contact Mike in the first instance.

### Amazon Smile

[smile.amazon.co.uk](https://smile.amazon.co.uk)

Select Centrestage Productions Youth Theatre and we will receive 0.5% of every transaction at no additional cost to you.

## Theatre Trips

**NOVEMBER**

**Dreamgirls (17th)**

**DECEMBER**

**Goldilocks and the 3 Bears PANTOMIME (15th)**

Families and friends are welcome but discounts can only be guaranteed for those under 18.

Please contact [cpytchair@gmail.com](mailto:cpytchair@gmail.com) if you are interested.

## Upcoming Productions in the Local Area

### Sweeney Todd

Southampton Musical Society  
The Point  
5th - 8th October 2022

### Matilda Jr

Spot On Productions  
The Rose Theatre (Barton Peveril)  
26th - 29th October 2022

### Eastleigh Operatic and Musical Society

The Point  
23rd - 26th November 2022

### Kinky Boots

Spot On Productions  
The Point  
30th November -  
3rd December 2022

## Contact Us...

**Mike Mullen - Chairman**

[cpytchair@gmail.com](mailto:cpytchair@gmail.com)

**Secretary**

[cpytsec@gmail.com](mailto:cpytsec@gmail.com)

**Rebecca Murchie / Nikky Smith**

**Child Protection Officers**

[cpytsafeguarding@gmail.com](mailto:cpytsafeguarding@gmail.com)