



# New Players News

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**New Players — for quality community theatre**

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You can receive *New Players*

*News* by e-mail as a pdf file instead of by post. To change, please email the editor, Irene Miller, at [npnews@newplayers.org.nz](mailto:npnews@newplayers.org.nz).

Thank you to our contributors: Irene Miller, Stephanie Drew, Marie Thomson & Marjorie McKee.

**AUDITIONS for our NEXT PRODUCTION**

## SPREADING OUT

by Roger Hall

In *Spreading Out*, we meet the characters from Roger Hall's New Zealand classic play *Middle Age Spread*, 27 years later. They are now in their 60s, with children in their 40s. The action takes place over three days around New Year's Eve at the home of Colin and Elizabeth, who are now retired to the Wairarapa on a lifestyle block growing grapes – Pinot Noir of course.

Three generations of the family have gathered to celebrate the New Year when they receive some unexpected guests, their old neighbours, Isobel and Reg. They arrive in their campervan from Queensland and invite themselves to stay. What materialises is a flare-up of family differences and peer resentments in another comedy of bad manners. New Year's Eve becomes a disastrous but hilarious exposé of 21st century New Zealand middle-class life as Reg gives his views on sex, working women and the pretentiousness associated with wine in general and pinot noir in particular.

*Spreading Out* is funny and revealing as it comments on our lifestyles so that the audience laughs with self-recognition.



## Meet our director, Stephanie Drew

Stephanie Drew is a freelance graphic designer, book designer and editor which means that she spends a lot of time doing what she loves, helping people to turn their novels, poems, family histories and stories into real books, not just documents. She also sculpts in Oamaru stone and regularly exhibits (and sells) her work at the Academy of Fine Arts in Wellington and in local galleries.

In the theatre world she has been involved at Mana Little Theatre for about twelve years in both backstage and on stage roles. She began directing with a season of one act plays a couple of years ago at MLT, and this year directed her first full length play, *Imaginary Lines*, also at MLT.

She has been married to Peter for over a quarter of a century, and they live in Camborne, Plimmerton, with two Burmese cats.

**There are more details on the auditions on page 4.**

## INSIDE:

are the results of the **Thespian Intelligence Quiz** in August, details of the **40 YEARS ON STAGE** celebrations, and our regular features: **Marie's Manifest**, New Players people **Out and About**, the **Crossword** and the **Theatre Calendar**.

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# maRIe's manIfeST



New Players  
News

is published monthly by the  
New Players Theatre Company (Inc).  
Editor: Irene Miller, tel: 972 8876  
E-mail: npnews@newplayers.org.nz.  
Next copy deadline: Sunday 29 September.

Greetings, all!

Preparations are well underway for our November production, Roger Hall's *Spreading Out!* Negotiations with director, Stephanie Drew, leave us with great confidence that this show will be just as successful as our last one was!

A sequel to *Middle Age Spread*, the *Spreading Out* cast consists of 2 couples of retirement age; and the son, daughter and granddaughter of one of the couples.

Auditions will be held on Sunday 5 September at 6.00 p.m. at the Newlands Community Centre. Please make all enquiries to Stephanie at 233 8087 or to our 24hr answerphone, 4 78 78 78. Make your offers of back-stage / front-of-house help to me, please, at [fairynuff@xtra.co.nz](mailto:fairynuff@xtra.co.nz).

Thanx to all those who attended the TIC – Thespian Intelligence Challenge – we had a wonderful time! Many thanx to our Quiz Master, Barry Lakeman, and his beautiful assistant Marjorie. The format for the quiz was novel and fast-moving, but we did our best! Not good enough, however and congratulations go to Khandallah Arts Theatre, who narrowly pipped us at the post to take home the Shield! We look forward to the return match and hope that a few more of the other Theatrical Societies are able to participate next time!

I wish to take this opportunity to extend a world of thanx to our Newsletter Editor, the aforementioned Barry, who has produced "New Players News" for many years. Barry is stepping down to take time for himself and we wish him many hours of doing what he wants to do .....

There are still a few positions to fill backstage for *Spreading Out*, so please contact me, as above.

This month's Lori-ism : "last night, mummy was playing with Boots ( the cat ) and he scratched her – but she got no symphony from me ....."!

God Bless,

Marie

SEP 2 2010

## AS GOOD AS A REST

There is a change to the format this month: new information in the Theatre Calendar only holds information on shows that are not on the main stages such as BATS, Circa, Downstage, Expressions, St James and the Opera House. This is because it takes ages to get right and I don't think anyone needs it as there is so much paid advertising for these shows around, and they all have websites that sing, dance and whistle.

## NEW PLAYERS PEOPLE OUT & ABOUT

**Don Blackmore** is the sound expert for the Wellington G&S Light Opera's North Island tour of *Die Fledermaus* that continues in September.

**Steve Gracie** appears in Wellington Repertory's play *Trick of the Light* by Ken Duncum, which runs from 16 to 25 September.

*Teechers* by John Godber, was directed by **Dale Hendry** for New Players back in 1996. His name appears in the news again this month as the adjudicator for the last of the two Regional Finals in this year's New Zealand Theatre Federation Festival of Community Theatre in September.

Last month we mentioned that we should have mentioned that **Margaret Robertson** received a Queen's Service Medal (QSM) "for services to amateur theatre and the community" in the June honours list. Margaret points out that she has been Secretary of the Wellington District Theatre Federation for 20 years but has not been president as we claimed.

And your new editor is **Irene Miller**.



Are you, or someone you know, doing something that might interest other New Players people? Do you have photographs of performances? Please tell the editor.

If you love amateur theatre, this could be the most fun you can have on a single weekend for another 10 years! Keep 17 and 18 September free.

### Celebrations for NZTF's 40th Birthday

At the National Final/AGM weekend 2010, which will be held at Te Whaea: National Dance and Drama Centre, Newtown, Wellington, the NZTF plan to have as many past Presidents, Administrators and those associated with NZTF in attendance as possible.

Included in the celebrations will be an exhibition of memorabilia and a cake cutting ceremony at the AGM, followed by an Open Forum / Q and A session with a panel of highly qualified speakers covering Promotion, Advertising and Marketing. A number of workshops are planned to run concurrently on various aspects of theatre and stagecraft.

These workshops are understood to be entitled:

- Vocal Maintenance
- Intimacy on Stage
- Unarmed Combat
- Design for Small Theatres.

### The Festival shows

There were 23 theatre pieces entered in the Festival nationwide this year: five from Hawkes Bay, 3 from Manawatu, 6 from Top of the South, 2 from Canterbury/West Coast, 4 from Otago and 3 from Southland. There were none from the rich theatrical hinterland o Wellington. The best are coming to Wellington.

You can also participate by coming to the AGM armed with topics for discussion at the Open Forum and by attending two workshops from a choice of four on Saturday afternoon. Take the opportunity to be schooled by Toi Whakaari tutors, and put Saturday 18 September 1.30—5pm aside in your diary, make your choice and come and have fun and learn from the best.

### Festival of Community Theatre 2010

The New Zealand Theatre Federation runs the festival, which usually consists of one act plays.

**Regional Finals:** Adjudicator: Dale Hendry.

**North Island:** These were held on 27/28 August at Pahiataua Repertory.

**South Island:** 3/4 September, NBS Theatre, Palmerston St., Westport.

**National Final:** Adjudicator: Pam Logan. 17/18 September at Te Whaea : National Dance & Drama Centre, Wellington.

**Festival Coordinator:** Nanette Wright, Apt D 509 14 West Quay, Ahuriri, Napier: 06 835 2016 or bry.nan@xtra.co.nz.

### The awards at the FOCT events

#### At the Regionals

- Certificates of Appearance
- Selecon Design/technical Award
- Best Male & Best Female Actors
- Best Youth Production
- Best Production of a NZ Play
- Best Overall

#### At the National Final

- Certificates of Appearance
- David Brockett Award
- Best New Director from Regional level
- Jannat Aitchison Award for Emerging Talent (3)
- NZTF Award Best Male/Best Female Actors
- Selecon Design/Technical Award
- Olga E Harding Playwriting Award
- Bryan Aitken Award for Best Youth Production
- Best Production of a New Zealand Play
- Ewen Coleman Award for Best Adult Play
- NZTF Book of Honour for Overall Winner

The assessor for the Olga E. Harding Award in 2010 will again be Elizabeth O'Connor, Literary Manager at the Court Theatre.

### ARE YOU A REVIEWER?

The Wellington District Theatre Federation has a place on its website for reviews of plays.

This is your chance to make yourself available to

review local theatre. You will not be paid but your independent assessment in print and on the web would be appreciated by many. Send your name and details to [info@theatrefed.wellington.net.nz](mailto:info@theatrefed.wellington.net.nz).

### New Players hosted the Thespian Intelligence Challenge (TIC) on 21 August

Playing their jokers early, the team from KAT and the more mature of the teams from New Players leapt to the lead after round 2, making for a neck and neck struggle right up to the end. But New Players lost the cup to Khandallah Arts Theatre.

Name	From	Round 1	Round 2	S/tot	Round 3	S/tot	Round 4	S/tot	Round 5	S/tot	Round 6	S/tot	Round 7	S/tot	Round 8	Total	Place
Lets Get Quizzal	KAT	7	20	27	8.5	34	10	44	9	53	8	61	20	81	8	89	1
But Wait Theres More	PLT	4.5	7	11.5	13	23.5	8	31.5	6	37.5	5	42.5	16	58.5	7	65.5	4
Wonderful Widdershins	New Players	6.5	20	26.5	8	34.5	10	44.5	8	52.5	8	60.5	18	78.5	9	87.5	2
Acting Up	New Players	8.5	10	18.5	15	25.5	10	35.5	7	42.5	9	51.5	16	67.5	9	76.5	3
The teams requested double points for the rounds shown in red.																	
<b>The teams</b>																	
Lets Get Quizzal	KAT	Michelle Soper, Lisa Duggan, Felicity Cozens, Charlotte Stephens, Kimberly Maths & Charles Hatchwell															
But Wait Theres More	PLT	Paulette, Tanisha, Stuart & Anneke															
Wonderful Widdershins	New Players	Margaret P, Irene M, Pat Moran, Brenda Pilott, Marty Pilott & Marie Thomson															
Acting Up	New Players	Andrew Bartle, Kim Smith, Kay McCormick, Pauline Pyefinch, Mike Pyefinch & Jeff Osborne															

# SPREADING OUT AUDITION DETAILS

The cast required are 2 couples of retirement age; and the son, daughter and grand-daughter of one of the couples.

**Colin:** in his 60s. Nice, well meaning man, spent all his life teaching. Has put on weight. Married to Elizabeth, father of Roddy & Jane.

**Elizabeth:** in her early 60s. Married to Colin. Keeps a “nice” home but no real sense of style.

**Jane:** in her 40s. A doctor - a disillusioned professional.

**Roddy:** in his 40s. Still a bit of a hippy / lay-about

**Megan:** in her 20s. Jane’s daughter. A successful website designer in the UK, visiting on holiday.

**Reg:** in his 60s. Has been a lecturer at Teachers College. Strong opinions. Used to be stylish. Womaniser.

**Isobel:** in her late 50s. Interested in crafts. Has put up with being rubbished by Reg for years.

The New Players performances, to be directed by Stephanie Drew, will be in November on Thursday 11, Friday 12, Saturday 13, Sunday 14 (evening), Thursday 18, Friday 19 and Saturday 20. There are 2 performances on the last day.

To be involved, all you have to do is to turn up to the auditions on Sunday 5 September at 6.00 p.m. at the Newlands Community Centre, in Batchelor Street, Newlands.

If you want to prepare for the audition, copies of the script are available from our director, Stephanie Drew and our President, Marie Thomson, and you can talk to Stephanie Drew at 233 8087, or leave a message on our 24hour answerphone (4 78 78 78). If you are a stranger to Roger Hall’s style of play, or you want to see the classic original, *Middle Age Spread*, it is widely available on VCR and DVD with Grant Tilly in the lead role.

“Spreading Out” is not to be confused with “Stepping Out”, a 1987 Broadway play by Richard Harris about 8 students who attend weekly tap dancing class in a North London church hall.

A CHANCE TO  
HELP OUT

If you would like to assist the club, but think that being on a committee is too much of a commitment, offer your skills ‘for the next show only’, or ‘I don’t mind ringing people’, or “Ask me to do a job and I’ll do it”. Any time you can offer to help to keep New Players ticking along would be welcomed by the committee. Call Marie on 478 4305.

Website

## Time on your hands? Try these websites:

**What's on:** [www.nzlive.com](http://www.nzlive.com), [www.wotzon.com](http://www.wotzon.com), [wellington.theatrenewzealand.co.nz](http://wellington.theatrenewzealand.co.nz), [www.newplayers.org.nz](http://www.newplayers.org.nz), [www.capitale.org.nz](http://www.capitale.org.nz), [www.musical.org.nz](http://www.musical.org.nz).

**Reviews, news and forums:** <http://theatreview.org.nz>, <http://lumiere.net.nz/reader/arts.php>, [www.thebigidea.co.nz](http://www.thebigidea.co.nz)

**Plays etc.:** [www.doollee.com](http://www.doollee.com), [www.buddybuddy.com](http://www.buddybuddy.com), [www.playmarket.org.nz](http://www.playmarket.org.nz), [www.playbureau.com](http://www.playbureau.com).

**Fun:** [www.quizwise.com](http://www.quizwise.com)

## All the Antoinettes

The Antoinettes Awards will be hosted on Sunday 31 October at 7.00 p.m. for 7.30 p.m. by Wellington Repertory Theatre at the Polish Society Club Rooms, 57 Riddiford St, Newtown. The Antoinettes are our equivalent of the Tony Awards, where actors and crew come out to be praised for their work over the last year.

This year adjudicator Jillian Carpenter has the difficult job of deciding winners in the Wellington District Full Length Play Festival from 21 entries. Here’s the full list:

Butterfly Creek Theatre Troupe: *One Flesh* by Fiona Samuel

Greytown Little Theatre: *Hay Fever* by Noel Coward

Heretaunga Players: *Blithe Spirit* by Noel Coward

Harlequin Theatre: *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie* by Jay Bresson Allan

Hutt Repertory Theatre: *The Lion in Winter* by James Goldman & *Who’s Under Where?* by Marcia Kash and Doug Hughes.

Kapiti Playhouse: *Trick of the Light* by Ken Duncum & *Bench in the Sun* by Ron Clark.

Khandallah Arts Theatre: *Honour* by Joanna Murray-Smith.

Mana Little Theatre: *Steel Magnolias* by Robert Harling & *Imaginary Lines* by Reggie Oliver & *The Wind in the Willows* adapted by Alan Bennett.

New Players Theatre Company: *Role Play* by Alan Ayckbourn.

Porirua Little Theatre: *Curtains* by Peter Stone, *Don’t Dress for Dinner* by Marc Camoletti & *Aladdin* by Amanda Stone

Stagecraft Theatre: *Macbeth* by William Shakespeare & *The Three Musketeers* adapted from Alexandre Dumas.

Tawa Community Theatre: *Nonsense* by Dan Goggin.

Wellington Repertory Theatre: *The French Lieutenant’s Woman* adapted by Mark Healey & *The Diary of Anne Frank* by Wendy Kesselman.

# THEATRE CALENDAR off the main stages

## OPENING IN SEPTEMBER

- 1 **The Three Musketeers** by Alexander Dumas ad. And directed by Joy Hellyer for Stagecraft at the Gryphon on Ghuznee, with Alan Carabott, Allan Henry, Amy Whiterod, Andrew Goddard, Anna Beccard, Ben Fransham, Ben Haddock, Ben Priest, Darryn Woods, Jérôme Leveneur, Luke Gumbley, Mark Da Vanzo, Natalie James, Rebecca Parker, Sarah Wood, Simon Elgar, Stephen Walter & Tom Martin. To 11 September.
- 3 **South Island Regional Finals** of the NZTF Festival of Community Theatre, adjudicated by Dale Hendry at NBS Theatre, Palm-erston St, Westport, to 4 September.
- 16 **Trick of the Light** by Ken Duncum, dir: Meg Cooksley for Wellington Repertory Theatre to 25 September. Bookings: 479 3393.
- 17 **National Final** of the NZTF Festival of Community Theatre, adjudicated by Pam Logan. at Te Whaea : National Dance and Drama Centre, Wellington, to 18 September.
- 27 **Peter Pan** by John Morley at Hutt Repertory Theatre, Theatre 108, Oxford Terrace, Eponi, to 2 October. More at [www.huttcity.com/huttrep](http://www.huttcity.com/huttrep).

## AUDITIONS

- 4 **Black Adder II—The Early Tudors** by Richard Curtis & Ben Elton, dir: Ewen Coleman. Season: 24 November to 4 December. This play combines 3 episodes of the TV series: *Belles*, *Money* and *Chains*. Wellington Repertory Theatre. For more details contact Ewen at 394 1413, 027 428 8491 or [edcoleman@xtra.co.nz](mailto:edcoleman@xtra.co.nz).
- 5 **Spreading Out!** by Roger Hall, dir: Stephanie Drew, for New Players Theatre Company. Cast required: 2 couples of retirement age; and the son, daughter and grand-daughter of one of the couples. Performances will be in November on Thursdays 11 & 18, Fridays 12 & 19, Saturdays 13 & 20 (2 performances on 20th) and a performance on Sunday 14 November (evening). Auditions are at 6.00 p.m. at the Newlands Community Centre. Enquiries to Stephanie at 233 8087 or to our 24hour answerphone (4 78 78 78).
- 5 **Scrubbers** by Cenarth Fox, dir: Andrew Watson for Heretaunga Players at The Studio. A play with songs for five cleaning ladies, aged 18 to 80. Book an audition time with Andrew Watson, on 528 5408. Season 24 November to 4 December. For more, see [heretaungaplayers.wordpress.com](http://heretaungaplayers.wordpress.com).
- 12 **Game Plan** by Alan Ayckbourn. 2pm at Kapiti Playhouse. Scripts available from Coastlands Information Desk from 30 August. More at <http://www.kapitiplayhouse.co.nz>

**If you know of (or especially if you are involved in) a show that could be listed here, please tell the editor.**

**For information on main stage productions, see their websites:**

<http://www.circa.co.nz>  
<http://www.downstage.co.nz>  
<http://www.bats.co.nz>  
<http://www.expressions.org.nz>  
<http://www.stjames.co.nz>

**Other useful sites at various times are:**

<http://www.theatrefed.wellington.net.nz>  
<http://www.fringe.org.nz>

## From the editor

Due to ill health, I am unable to continue to do very much on a regular capacity.

I am therefore reluctantly handing over the reigns of this esteemed publication to Irene Miller who will, no doubt, be less pedantic than I have been, going on about things I read frequently on signs, like "jewellery", "12 items or less", "criteria applies", and "ladie's". Recently, I saw on a DVD cover: "The real kiwi's behind the story". Why would I want to see a kiwi's behind? And where did the word "homewares" come from, and why is it plural? I am reminded of the opening sequence to Roger Hall's *Spreading Out*, where the main character is recovering from a fight, having assaulted a book shop owner who put an apostrophe in the wrong place on a hand-written sign.

I intend to be involved in theatre and film for as long as I can—I hope to make it to being in a Fringe show in 2011—and my plays will still be available for performance, with the copyright held in the good hands of my wife, Marjorie McKee, who will continue to look after the company (which, incidentally, has an e-mail address of [lake-man@paradise.net.nz](mailto:lake-man@paradise.net.nz)).

Which brings me to ask if any of you would care to come to a walk-through of my latest full length play, *Detectives*, on the afternoon of Sunday 3 October in the city. The audience for this has to do a bit of work: I need to know whether people solve the whole mystery in 5 minutes (in which case it is a waste of time presenting it as full length play!), and whether it is worthy of being "put into stock" of the plays that I have available for performance. If you haven't already received an invitation and you would like to come, just drop me an e-mail.

Barry

**JUST  
FOR  
FUN**

## Fair pay for all

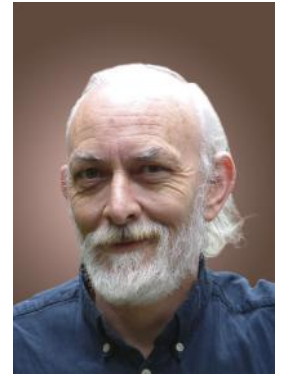
A man owned a small farm in Aberdeenshire. The Department of Employment & Pensions claimed he was not paying proper wages to his staff and sent a representative out to interview him.

'I need a list of your employees and how much you pay them,' demanded the rep.

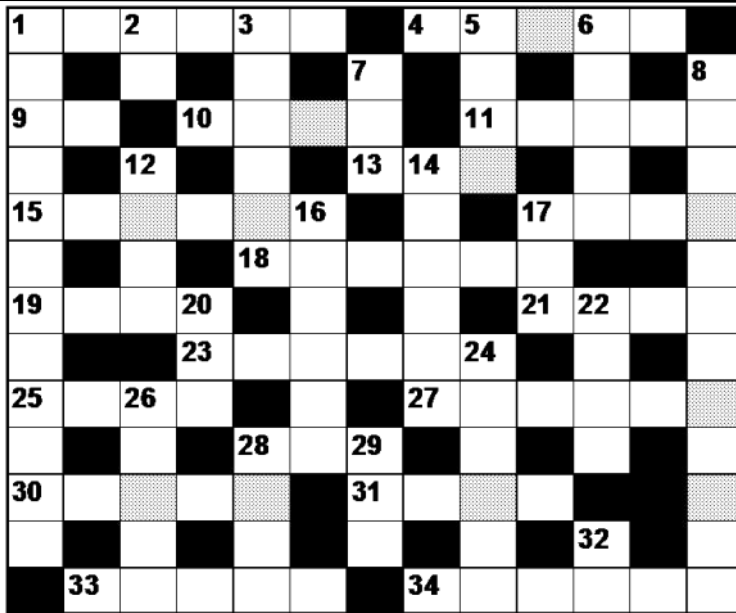
'Well,' replied the farmer, 'there's my farm hand who's been with me for 3 years. I pay him £200 a week plus free room and board. The cook/housekeeper has been here for 18 months, and I pay her £150 per week plus free room and board. Then there's the half-wit. He works about 18 hours every day and does about 90% of all the work around here. He makes about £10 per week, pays his own room and board, and I buy him a bottle of whiskey every Saturday night. He also sleeps with my wife occasionally.'

'That's the guy I want to talk to ... the half-wit,' says the agent.

'That would be me,' replied the farmer.



# CROSSWORD by Barry Lakeman



## DOWN

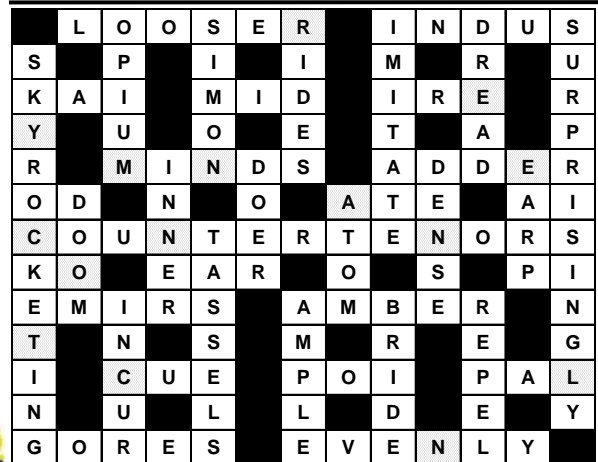
- 1 Glen baked owl, stirred, and became learned.  
(Warning: this answer is an alternative spelling.)
- 2 & 34 Then hail around better than in sickness (2, 6).
- 3 Hon led around to a car make.
- 5 Deeds before Romans.
- 6 Open sea: canoe smashed.
- 7 Operate in fused situation.
- 8 Is nature doco. narrator brat enough to change?
- 12 Left in back rub and became indistinct.
- 14 Quiet and clear wrapped up like a package.
- 16 Older: confusion on rise.
- 17 In Canada it's an early computer language.
- 20 & 32 Left for disturbed lake to find Superman's original name (3, 2).
- 22 Tear around for speed.
- 24 Gets comfort from a close arrangement.
- 26 After a loss from 1970s pop group, turn back to become head of a monastery.
- 28 A sharp pain when quiet nag falls over.
- 29 Following hither and returning "No, yes" signal.
- 32 See 20 down.

## ACROSS

- 1 Thin little kilogram stirred to hold a KCMG.
- 4 Allow alternative for a city boss.
- 9 & 33 Nat's ego crushed when performing (2, 5).
- 10 Swirling smell not left in the trees.
- 11 Mashed colloquial potato is a little luxury.
- 13 Little pieces of longer story in Poughkeepsie.
- 15 Flowers grow from disturbances, i.e. ills.
- 17 Sorted neat stake.
- 18 Endear change as it got closer.
- 19 There is no production in the theatre when in the black.
- 21 Bar organised around a person from the Middle East.
- 23 Ed is as confused as confidential remarks can be.
- 25 Lana returns, totally absorbed in detail.
- 27 Hang about, or I let resort.
- 28 Use a lever to poke one's nose in.
- 30 Sign of balance from collapse of British Rail.
- 31 No friend? Get a gemstone.
- 33 See 9 across.
- 34 See 2 down.

The first five across answers might remind you of the title of a film. The letters in the shaded squares can be rearranged to form the name of the director of the 2010 remake (6, 5).

## LAST MONTH'S CROSSWORD



The first six across answers might remind you of a song title. The letters in the shaded squares can be rearranged to make the names of the composers: **Lennon, McCartney.**

## JUST FOR FUN

### These were real Headlines

- Man Kills Self Before Shooting Wife and Daughter
- Something Went Wrong in Jet Crash, Expert Says
- Police Begin Campaign to Run Down Jaywalkers
- Panda Mating Fails; Veterinarian Takes Over
- Miners Refuse to Work after Death
- Juvenile Court to Try Shooting Defendant
- War Dims Hope for Peace
- If Strike Isn't Settled Quickly, It May Last Awhile
- Cold Wave Linked to Temperatures
- Couple Slain; Police Suspect Homicide
- Red Tape Holds Up New Bridges
- New Study of Obesity Looks for Larger Test Group
- Local High School Dropouts Cut in Half
- Hospitals Sued by 7 Foot Doctors
- Typhoon Rips Through Cemetery; Hundreds Dead



## JUST FOR FUN

### Moved to tears

One night while Sir Henry Irving was playing Hamlet, he noticed an old lady in the front row of the pit dissolved in tears. Delighted at this apparent appreciation of his acting, he sent round word that he would like to see her after the performance. When she arrived, Irving said, "Madam, I perceived that my acting moved you very much." "Indeed it did," said the old lady. "You see, I've a young son myself play-acting somewhere up in the north, and it broke me up to think that he might be no better at it than you."