I tried you know, I really did

Of chores I tried myself to rid

Some time to find before it’s late

A very important job awaits

But always there were things to do

Rehearsals to run, emails to you

My boss required attendance each day

Basil wanted music to play

Dinners to make and dogs to walk

On the telephone I had to talk

Over a million things my mind did roam

I just could not fit in a poem.

Last Thursday to Rosina and Al

I said, no sorry, listen up pal

With all the stuff I’ve still to do

Do you think I’ve got the time for you?

I just can’t do it, do you hear???

The poem will have to go this year

But as we stood there in the bar

With drinks in hand, just a couple of jars

Rosina’s face just started to fall

I thought I’d have tears and all

And Allan’s bottom lip stuck out

And he turned it into a massive pout

And they said, “but it’s tradition

But it’s the Sunday afternoon ambition.

It’s something that we always do!

So you go on and write it Sue!

And so here I am, on Sunday morning’

While all you buggers still lie snoring’

It’s freezing cold and deathly still

And all your names lie before me still

I admit I thought maybe not a rhyme

I’ll just put their names in a line!

But no, ass was kicked and I didn’t shirk

At 5:30 this morning, I began to work

Our new girl first, the lovely Nina

In January still, no one had seen her!

Can she possibly catch up? We didn’t know

But a space was kept, in the hope she’d show

And in February lo she did appear

And in she fitted like she’d always been here

She’d learned her words better than all you lot

And studied the music , she knew every jot

But Nina one thing I’ll say to your head

I’m really glad we don’t share a bed

That lion sleeps in the strangest way

Ass up, face down, a spin and a hey!

And the lovely Barbara, what a find

A beautiful voice, hard-working and kind

She found all the notes I’d lost

She even smiled when I was cross!

And Amie, she was also new

Such a lovely smile, a great part of the crew

She struts her stuff, comes on as Jane

What a brilliant performer, never plain

Now what confusion did befall

If the name Ellie should be called!

Was it Ellie one two or three

Tall Ellie, small Ellie, or the youngest baby?

The Ellie’s thought they go back stage

But the limelight truly they did crave

And so hard they worked, each night were there

Waited their turns and learned with care.

And it was the first show for little Ellie-Mae

Who came with mother Lynsey

She has learned her words and steps and place

And make it all look easy

And another mother-daughter team

Tania, as Cougar, what a scream!

You graced the stage when the world was ruled

And set pulses racing in Cougar too

And for your sterling work with all the kiddies

The bigger ones and little tiddlies

They look and sound brilliant, what a great job you do

Their performance is a huge credit to you.

Daisy you were wonderful, so sure of all you do

I loved the way you looked after the small ones too

So caring and sweet, with that wonderful smile

I hope Cabaret will have your talents a long while.

Bertie, you’ve been brilliant, what a presence on the stage

So brave to see to sing out solo at such a tender age.

You’ve held your smile and worked so hard through all our practice time

I hope you’ve loved the days with us, you’re a real star that shines.

And our other newbie boys, what can I say

Luke and Will, do you rue the day

When you first set foot in Cabaret last year

And decided that this year you’d appear?

Will, a wonderful talent, a style and grace

Such lovely expressions on your face

From cool rapper dude to the big man Frank

On your continued presence I will certainly bank

And wow, when we got you

I never thought we’d get your mum too!

So Debbie, so welcome, many thanks for your aid

With the singing and dancing, we’re so glad you stayed

A long history of service to the Cabaret crowd

I hope your Blue Moon boys did you proud.

And Luke, such an amazing ability

A talent, a warmth, such personality

Never one to blend quietly into the background, that’s true

But annoying? No. That’s why we love you!

And we had children again from last years

Maisie, Alexis and Martha, my dears

I’m so proud of the wonderful work you all do

You are beautiful and sweet, just great kids too.

And James you look wonderful in your Mowgli wig

When you’re dancing with Barry when he’s a bear, not a pig….

With a lovely sweet smile that could melt a rock

And you make a great tail on the croc!

Then here come the boys, hey what a crew

There ain’t nothing they can’t do!

From rap to romance, yee hah to pop

They danced all night, they didn’t stop!

A wounded warrior for most of the year

Allan still hung on and worked to appear

On his fourth Cabaret stage floor

What a wild one you are - please stay and do more

And my wild rover Paul, a stalwart of the club

Also injured this year, but here’s the rub

Despite that he stood on the stage every night

And shouted come on, get on, get it right

And Adam back for a second year

Although for a while his work said no, you can’t appear

I was terrified we’d lose you and are so glad you came

And watch out for that cougar, I think she needs a tame!

Barry, well what can I say?

As wonderful as ever, in so many ways.

My back up, my right arm, a pig and a bear

Your humour and talent, it’s just always there.

And daughter Cerys, such a lovely young gell

A wild child? Nah not her, though she acts it well!

So brave to appear in a solo song

And to teach all the others how to dance along.

And while the Coppins family is all being mentioned

Can I ask you to give your attention

To the lady who helped me so much with sales

With tickets and admin she never fails!

Lynda I thank you for taking on

The ticket job with such aplomb!

Such a huge help every night

And every seat been sold just right.

Lynsey I offer you bushels of praise

Despite another bun in the oven, you’re back on the stage!

You show them all, just what you are

I hope you remember how it feels to be a star.

And Jasmine, so young, and a Cabaret veteran

My god girl you worked and learned all those steps and

You saved the day by working the CD

You’ve been such a big help to Viv and to me.

And Rosina my friend despite the rough start

To two thousand thirteen, you still gave your heart

To the Cabaret show and all of your mates

And you grow every year, a new future awaits.

Charlotte as always you’ve sung up a storm,

Your dancing’s superb, you sure kept them all warm!

Thank you for all of the talent you brought,

And the hours you spent, and the way that you taught.

Holly, I have to ask, are you feeling quite strong?

It’s just that you smiled in nearly every song!!

When you do, you bring a light to the scene

Though you smiled first through “Heartache” and I think that’s quite mean!

Kate, I don’t know how you’ve do it, I truly don’t

How you fit it all in, Princess L, and you won’t

Give up on anything you want to do.

I know that the club will join in wishing you

A wonderful wedding, the next step in life

As you stand up by Ed and become his wife

All in Cabaret will be thinking of you

And we thank you for all that you do for us too.

We’re nearly at the end of the list of cast

Well one of you always has to be last!

And this year it’s Matt, but I think that’s right

My god you’re brave to stand up there every night

In nowt but a shammy and a strong pair of jocks

And I know there’ll be teasing and you’ll take some knocks

From your friends (and your sisters) for your role as Tarzan

But can I say that I think your amazing.

All credit to you, you look just swell

As you fly across the stage like a bat out of hell

Thank you for having the courage to do it.

I hope that it’s fun, too, your special bit

So now crew, my god there’s a lot of you too

You’ve sewed and you’ve painted and you’ve built stuff too.

So many people, without whom the show wouldn’t go

All under the auspices of one I know

She’s the one here who doesn’t like her name to be mentioned

She’s not happy when you give her any attention

Or tell her that without her, you couldn’t have done it

Or thank her for her friendship, her effort, her constant companionship

So I’m NOT going to speak about our Cabaret Mum

Or the way that she picks up the pieces and runs

And quietly accomplishes those thousands of things

That add to the show and huge pleasure brings

Her kindness and caring for all of you lot

Even if she shouts, sometimes a lot!

But I won’t name her, I won’t let it show

(The initials are V F, in case you didn’t know!)

Now “V” has a team too, of John and Barb Bradley

Who are our fabulous back-stage who do nothing badly

They turn flats and build the props for the dances

And John’s the gorilla and boy how he prances!

And with them are Jonny and Mark

And Leslie Vickery will play in the dark

As the whole thing happens behind the scenes

And the show just goes as it has always been

We had scenery painters galore,

And probably could still have done with more!

Verna and Gill used their holiday

Louisa and Jackie painted away

Darren did his scene with style

And even my Alan was called in for awhile!

They made beautiful scenes for the whole of the show

And our thanks now out to them goes!

We had other helpers with our dancing skill

They gave us their talent with good hearts and will.

Debbie I’ve mentioned, Cerys and Lynsey too

Steph helped us with Big Bang and the opening too

And Briony did several, my favorite number in fact

The way that the Kidz enter is such a good act!

It lifts the whole audience and just sets the style

It turns up the heat, raises the dial!

As always Basil did music, we owe him a debt

And Ian does microphones, and he won’t let

You get on the stage without wearing a wire

His new name is Mike and he’s keeping you out the mire

Swen and James for many years have lit and run the show

They’re the ones who set it up and the ones you make it go

Without them I just can’t see

How we could be as good as could be.

A few others who haven’t been mentioned,

Maria Berry made Baloo and Matt Pitman paid attention

To music while Swen and James weren’t there

And Elsie Suggett was a painter up there.

Ann has a team of many who

Keep front of house moving smooth

They rack ‘em and stack ‘em and seat ‘em in rows

And sell raffle tickets from beginning to bows

As always our filming’s by Geoff Mason Brown

And he is sure to go to town

To show your best sides, smiles and blooper

He makes you all look super duper!

We are grateful for the efforts of some

In particular the children‘s carers, the mums

Who come in each night and look after the tots

Liz, Sophie, Louisa, Gill, we’re grateful, lots!

At first rehearsal this year,

Helen came in and said “Be of good cheer!

I have come to help with costumes new.”

And I said, “Nicky, here’s a helper for you!”

And goodness what a helper, a real part of the team

Part of the laughs and giggles, occasional tears and screams

That make up being the costume department

Thank you Helen, you were heaven sent

And Nicky had Angie and Penny and Liz

To help stop her getting into a permanent tiz

And along with Elaine who sewed fit to bust

They’ve made a display that, well really must

Go down in history as some of the best

Costumes to ever have passed the test

Of being good enough for Nicky McP

To put her name to, in all harmony!

Nicky, as always, you’re bloody neat

I tip you my hat and hereby repeat

Chief Gnome, number 1 up to 50

Thunderbird One thinks you’re bloody nifty!!

Our committee works hard for us all year, under chair Ann and Vice Barry

With treasurer Viv and scribe Penny, they try to keep you happy as larry

Kate, Rosina, Geoff, Luke, Lou, Jane, Barbara too

You’ve probably no idea how much work they do for you.

The one thing that’s missing from the show this year

Is my mum, but I know she’s sending big cheers

And she’s thinking of you all every night

And I really wish she was sitting stage right

To clap and applaud and smile at each act

She used to stay in her white hat

So that you could pick her out of the crowd

And find a smiling face and sing out loud

So she’s with you in spirit, I know that’s true

And she’s sending big love and good wishes to you.

Well I’m getting ready for dinner and drink at the carvery tonight

And I suspect you want to get off too, celebrate your triumph, damn right

And the tears and the passion that all count so much

The gifts you each give of your talents and such

Mean that a show like ours is bound to succeed

While there’s people like you offering all that we need

So for the rest of the week, you sing your hearts out, don’t forget

Put a smile on your face and you will let

The world know that you’re proud of all that do

Just as proud as I am of you.

Thank you! Have a wonderful show!