



## Beauty and the Beast!

A party of 30 **Loughborough Circle Catenians**, including 12 children, spent an enjoyable time at the local panto, 'Beauty and the Beast' in January. One of the panto cast took a 'shine' to John Fernandez's bald head, (pictured here with the rest of John below it), throughout the performance and all present hoped he would be dragged up on the stage for some knockabout humour but fortunately for John it didn't happen. After the panto the group went off to Macdonalds for the usual tea. A great time was had by all.



## Walking With Shrewsbury Ghosts

On a misty, damp, cold, late January evening with a near full moon, 22 intrepid **Shrewsbury Circle** brothers, wives and family headed off down spooky Shrewsbury shutts (narrow alleyways to the uninitiated) into what is reputed to be the most haunted town in England. Led by a professional guide who answered the first question "Have you seen a ghost on one of these tours?" with the subtle, but not entirely calming response, "Yes, I believe I have. . . ." For the next two hours, it was stories of mysterious figures seen in the streets and houses, people seen to walk through walls, strange physical happenings, the smell of pipe tobacco where Old Fred is reported to sit on a moonless night, dogs that won't walk down a particular street, scenes of horrible deaths, the man who was buried alive, the "white nurse" whose appearances at the end of a bed at night always meant a death by morning, good ghosts and bad ones, poltergeists and spirits . . . and a regular head count to make sure we were all still there . . . The pub at the end of the tour was a welcome haven!

*For more information contact one of the Three Wise Monkeys (photo)... or is that the Three Brass Monkeys?*



## Wigan Mass for Vocations

Pictured are some of the brothers and their ladies who attended Wigan Circle's Annual Mass for Vocations at St Judes Church with Circle Chaplain Canon Patrick Macnally and President Albert Eckersley.



## Harrow Entertain Their Sons and Daughters

January once again saw **Harrow Circle** hosting their annual Sons, Daughters, Grandsons and Granddaughters evening which is an occasion for old friends from childhood and school days to meet up and catch up. This year the Harrow brothers, together with visitors from **South Bucks, Northampton and West Middlesex Circles**, made a grand total of 48. After-dinner jokes came thick and fast - one delivered in fine style by Dominic, the son of Len Brownsell.



## Cardiff Down Under

Melbourne was the destination in December 2009 for **Cardiff Circle** President Ceri and Pat Davies to enjoy the company of their new grandson Samuel. It was also an opportunity to visit local brothers and as luck would have it both **City of Melbourne** and **Boroondara Circles** meetings were Ladies nights. For the City of Melbourne evening Ceri became the holder (just for the evening) of the Mansfield Pint having travelled the greatest distance from his home Circle; it is just as well the Director of Province 9, Gerry Devine, hadn't turned up on the same night (he won it earlier in the year after travelling from Glasgow).

Boroondara's evening was memorable for Pat and Ceri's first Christmas dinner, preceding those eventually back home by some distance and higher temperatures.

They would like to thank the members and ladies of both circles for a typically warm and friendly Australian welcome and in particular to thank City of Melbourne immediate Past President Bob and Allison Leicester for looking after them.



*Pictured are: Ceri Davies and Pat (centre) with City of Melbourne President Tony Warnock (left) and Boroondara President Bruno Coniglio (right)*