Musical magic enthralls

It is not often that a speech, quite a long one at that, is remembered as one of the outstanding moments of a musical.

All praise then to Nigel Haywood as the schoolmaster of *Brigadoon* who had the audience spellbound and enthralled when he explained the miracle of the village that wakes for a day only once every hundred years.

Burton Operatic Society's presentation of the Lerner and Loewe classic opened last night at Horninglow, where guests were piped into Burton's de Ferrers School by Donald Grant. He is a former member of the Pipe Band of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders.

The magic of this production came, not only from the tale of the vanishing village, but from the wonderful Scots-style tunes, and the singing and dancing.

Oh! the dancing! It was superb — especially the sword dance by Andrew Last, Joanne Thompson and Catherine Johnson.

Helen Coxon as Maggie, along with the other principal dancers and indeed the entire cast made this show memorable, and the choreographer, Katrina Burrows-Smith, can be proud of her achievement. There were even two talented junior bridesmaid dancers, Gemma Page and Victoria Parker, who will alternate during the week with two other youngsters, Hannah Gow and Hayley Woodall.

Mark Jones and Angela Wynne as the main romantic twosome and Adrian Bader and Jane Haywood as the wedding couple were well cast and sang beautifully.

Full marks to producer-director Michael Pope and musical director Peter Vernon on a great show. — DS.

Musical magic delights

Love, humour, wisdom and magic forge together in musical *Brigadoon*, a show wooing Burton audiences this week.

The Lerner and Loewe musical is being presented this week at Burton's de Ferrers School, Horninglow, by Burton Operatic Society.

It continues until Saturday. Evening shows are fully booked. A few seats are available for the Saturday matinee.

● Left: Some of the cast, from l-r, Jane Foster, Jane Haywood, Donald Grant, Mike Mear, Mark Jones and Angela Wynne.

● Adrian Bader as Charlie Cameron and Jane Haywood as Jean.