

## IAN JACKSON

I've had a lot of warning of this; I've just spent nine hours driving back from France and arrived five minutes ago to be told I have to tell a brief story.

I think, like everybody, I just have wonderful memories of the Lichfield Mysteries. I nearly missed the first one; for many years I've spent that weekend hill-climbing in Scotland and I was actually in Scotland climbing hills when I got a phone call from Jo on the Sunday saying "Get yourself back here, this is wonderful!"

So I got back in time for the Ascension and just sat and watched it outside the Cathedral and I was utterly captivated and thought from then "I've got to be a part of this next time."

I was an angel, as incredible as it might seem, the second time around. I think actually that was one of my favourite memories of the Lichfield Mysteries, when we got rained off and we all went into the Guildhall, and we did the final plays in the cycle in the Guildhall. That, for me, was a magical moment, although it was almost for ourselves, it was really just the performers who were there, but it was great, especially being up there in the Minstrel Gallery. (I'd like to think I was the last person to perform in the Minstrel Gallery, but Colin got in there at the St George's Court.) But that was one of the special moments for me.

As far as being Chairman was concerned I don't know, I must be a good delegator. I don't remember a thing about it, nothing went wrong, it was all perfect, and I just went round in a haze. But at the end of it I said to some friends, if not Jo, "That's one of the best things I've ever done." It's certainly one of the things that's given me the greatest satisfaction, to have been involved in the Mysteries and to have been chairman for the last one, because you meet so many great people and you all have a good time.

So I'll use this as an opportunity to say "Thank you very much for all the support you gave me the last time. Thank you."