

## *“Then away we go to an island fair That lies in a southern sea.....”*

*Oh! If only that were true! After the recent wintry weather it would be very welcome. However, we will soon be on stage on a pretend island under stage lighting that will at least give the illusion of warmth and well-being! Rehearsals have been very well attended considering the snow, so do please make every effort to keep this up from now till the show. Last year’s offering was one of the highlights of our society’s history, so.....follow that! I know you can do it. As I said last year, enjoy yourselves - if you do, then so will the audience.*

*Graham has put together a colourful show with plenty of movement to keep the audience’s attention, and Jim has again ensured that our musical skills are showcased, just as our audience has become accustomed to..... Now it’s up to us to make sure that we know the music, the words, and our moves! (Help!) Above all keep smiling and press on regardless! Ticket sales are somewhat down from last year at this time (as we go to press), which probably reflects the relative popularity of The Gondoliers vis-à-vis The Mikado, so please do keep selling the show whenever you get the chance. Blackmail friends and relatives. Talk it up – it **will** be good!*

*As usual, once the scenery is packed safely away on Saturday night, there will be an after show ‘chillax’ in the theatre Royal bar. Our accustomed ‘fuddle’, into the small hours – a chance to reminisce on the weeks activities.*

*• Jim and Graham have again worked wonders with our ‘motley’ crew, to keep our audience enthralled.*

### Individual Highlights:

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## Dates for your diary

### Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> March & Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> March

We have been given the opportunity to take part in an event being held in the Ridings Centre called "A window to your past". The opening ceremony, at 10.30 a.m. on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> March will be televised and there will be a press presence. We have been asked to provide some colour and music during that ceremony by performing in costume. The timing is ideal to raise awareness of our show and hopefully sell some more tickets! We are also asked to have a presence and possibly perform on the Saturday between 9.30 and 4.30 (not continuously of course!). By the time you are reading this you may have already volunteered to be there, either singing or just giving out leaflets. If so, then thank you for your help.

### 16<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> March – The Gondoliers!

Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> – Get in and scenery setup in the theatre from 10.00am

Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> – Technical rehearsal, 5.30pm for a 6.00pm prompt start, all cast required

Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> – Dress rehearsal as a full show, 7.30pm.

Performances : Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> – Friday 19<sup>th</sup>: 7.30pm Saturday 20<sup>th</sup>: 2.00 pm and 7.00pm

### Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> April 2010

#### Society Costumes

Purchasing the Mikado costumes from Homburgs was an opportunity to bring revenue into the Society, and our venture into costume hire may be about to reap rewards. We have been approached by Jorvik G&S Society to costume their September show, and we have tentative enquiries from other societies for assistance with wigs and principal costumes. Now things are moving forwards, we need to label the costumes, and catalogue everything we have. We therefore need a team of volunteers to assist on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> April when there will be a "Sewing evening" at Shelagh Senior's house to put labels on our Mikado costumes, measure, and photograph them before they are hired out! All help will be gratefully received.

### Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2010

The society has agreed to perform a semi-staged version of the Mikado for Batley Rotary Club on the evening of Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> May. Principals will be in costume but chorus will wear evening dress and be seated throughout the performance (no moves to learn!). Jim Newby has agreed to co-ordinate the performance which will require some rehearsals in April and probably two in the week of the performance. We hope to see as many as possible of you taking part.

### Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> July 2010

We have been asked to perform a concert of about an hour for the Churches Conservation Trust in Halifax from 3.00pm to 4.00pm. We hope to be able to accept the invitation so please add your name to the list of participants if you are able to be there.

### Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2010

AGM at College Grove 7.30pm

### Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> July 2010

Beryl and Tony Johnson have volunteered to hold our "annual" barbecue at their house on the afternoon of the above date. This will be preceded, for those who wish to take part, by an easy canal-side walk.

## Vice-Presidents & Patrons still needed

We make no apologies for repeating that becoming a Vice-President or Patron of the society is a very good deal, providing Vice-Presidents with 4 seats and interval drinks for only £60, while Patrons get 2 seats also with interval drinks for only £30. VPs and Patrons also get priority booking, copies of our newsletters and are always welcome to attend our social events. Why do we want people to sign up to these deals? Well it's a kind of loyalty affiliation (a bit like a Boots card in a way), that gives us some slight cash flow advantages but also a degree of certainty that there will be a loyal audience. A long list of Patrons & VPs in the show programme establishes that we are in good health as a society and may encourage others!

Some of you have done your best to persuade friends that come to most of our shows that they might well benefit from becoming Patrons or VPs. But for those of you who don't like to approach them yourselves you could pass their names and addresses to Jennie Grove (our patrons' secretary) who will be happy to write to them on our behalf.

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## The electronic world of Wakefield G&S!

### 1. Society Website

Our website is becoming noticed far and wide. The request for costumes from York came through the website, and we have had visit to our site from over 8000 different people. If you have anything that you think we should have on the web, which would help advertise our capabilities let Amy, Ernie or Gordon know.

### 2. Email Marketing

Our Ticket Secretary has engaged with Mid Yorkshire NHS Trust, in a revolutionary marketing strategy for our Society. On 8<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> March, approximately 10,000 NHS staff will receive an email advertising our show, and offering discounted tickets if you work for the NHS. A similar strategy with Leeds Teaching Hospitals Trust could see the same email reaching 25,000 NHS staff on 15<sup>th</sup> March. If all goes according to plan, and it catches people's attention, the theatre Royal may have to dust off the 'House Full' sign! Fingers crossed.



## The Wider Gilbert and Sullivan family.

As with all Gilbert and Sullivan Societies, we rely on the support of nearby societies, for cast members, ticket sales, scenery and props, and goodness knows what else. In order to maintain that support, reciprocity is required.

Our friends can be seen loitering in the following venues in the near future:

March 25 – 27	<b>Pirates of Penzance</b>	B.U.S.O.M:	01274-233200
April 13 – 17	<b>Ruddigore</b>	Dore G&S:	01246 416364
April 19 – 24	<b>Iolanthe</b>	Bingley G&S:	01274-567294
April 26 – May 1	<b>Utopia Ltd</b>	Batley G&S:	01924-437359
May 11 – 15	<b>Mikado</b>	Huddersfield G&S:	01484-310668
May 25 – 29	<b>Patience</b>	Harrogate G&S:	0113 2502677
Sept 4 – Oct 3	<b>Yeomen</b>	West Yorks Savs:	01423 885774
Sept 15 – 18	<b>Mikado</b>	Jorvik G&S:	01904 400376

Auditions for Halifax G&S The Yeomen of the Guard will take place on Sunday May 9<sup>th</sup>, from 11 a.m, for those that just cannot get enough G&S!

## Open invitation

Barnsley Gilbert & Sullivan Society is to perform with the internationally known Tenor John Hudson at a concert **in aid of the Yorkshire Air Ambulance** on Friday April 9<sup>th</sup> at the Lamp Room Theatre, Barnsley. As Wakefield is within the area that benefits from the air ambulance, **they have invited our members to join in.** They expect there to be 4 to 6 rehearsals mainly on Sunday afternoons beginning on 14<sup>th</sup> March, but they don't expect people to be able to attend them all! The content will be largely Gilbert & Sullivan but will also include items from The Merry Widow, Die Fledermaus, plus items by Romberg and Novello.

If you are interested, please let Ernie Lowe know or put your name on the sheet on the noticeboard.

## One Final thought – make sure you enjoy the Gondoliers – and sell sell sell the tickets!

