



Wakefield Gilbert & Sullivan Society



SUMMER 2011 NEWSLETTER

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HMS Pinafore

We are about to 'sail the ocean blue' this next year. The date of the show is Wednesday 14th March 2012 to Saturday 17th March 2012 with a matinee on the Saturday as well as an evening performance. There will be a Dress Rehearsal at the theatre on Tuesday 13th March 2012. We also have a show at the Batley School for the Blind on Saturday 24th March 2012. Our Business and Publicity Manager is still trying to get the Society 2 more gigs that week so watch this space for more details!

Singing rehearsals will start on Tuesday 6th September with Jim Newby with some concert rehearsals interspersed. Floor rehearsal schedule will be issued as soon as Graham has sorted it out, but probably starting in the New Year! Again watch this space!

The cast is as follows:-

Sir Joseph Porter	–	Bobbie Greatorex
Captain Corcoran	–	Oliver Longstaff
Ralph Rackstraw	–	Anthony Farrimond
Bill Bobstay (Boatswain)	–	Gordon Fawcett
Bob Beckett (Carpenter)	–	Daniel Senior
Dick Deadeye	–	Rob Atkinson
Josephine	–	Alison Davies
Cousin Hebe	–	Jane Fawcett
Little Buttercup	–	Maggie Lowe

There are a couple of new faces amongst the cast along with some who have performed with us before. Oliver did Bunthorne with us in Patience(2008), Rob did Pish-Tush with us in Mikado (2009) and Anthony did Marco for us in Gondoliers (2010).

The two new faces are Alison and Maggie and here is a little bit about them!



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Maggie Lowe has moved into the area from Reading and after seeing our production of Sorcerer, she got in touch and here we are!

Maggie has sung all the main G&S soprano roles with Reading Operatic Society; her favourites being Mabel, Josephine, Gianetta, Princess Ida and Phyllis. Maggie has also sung some of the character roles including Mad Margaret, Buttercup, Katisha, Lady Jane, Ruth, and Fairy Queen.

She has also sung parts in Die Fledermaus, Merry Widow, Fiddler on the Roof, King & I, The Boyfriend, Oklahoma, 42nd Street, and Guys & Dolls. With another group in Reading (Starmaker Theatre Co), she has sung roles in Fame and High School Musical.

We hope that Maggie enjoys being part of Wakefield G&S Society!

Alison Davies is originally from Wootton Bassett in Wiltshire. She has been dancing since the age of 3 (ballet, tap, modern and jazz) and did her first professional role at the age of 7 in the West End. She played an orphan in a musical about Dr Barnardo (played by James Smilie) and his wife (played by Fiona Fullerton).

Alison has done some G&S at school, including playing the Major General Stanley in Pirates of Penzance, aged 11 and the 'Duke of Plaza Toro' in the Gondoliers – so watch out guys!

Having a family and career put a halt on the theatricals but then since moving to Yorkshire, she has recently joined Tadcaster Theatre Company and has had a part in My Fair Lady. Last year Alison sang the part of the Plaintiff in 'Trial by Jury'. Following this she played 'Andy' a down-trodden victim of domestic violence in a musical version of the play 'Stepping Out'. She is currently taking the part of Aladdin in the forthcoming pantomime in November!

Again, we hope that Alison enjoys being part of Wakefield G & S Society!

Rehearsal Venue

Now that we have started rehearsing at **Sandal Methodist Church**, there will be some changes.

There will be no 50 club – what a shame! This has been a money spinner for the last few years, but as we are now in church, we cannot do this.

But, we can now supply our own tea and coffee and hopefully make a little money to supplement the loss of the 50 club. We will need to have a rota for making the drinks and this will include everyone. This will be organised when we re-start in September, so please be aware of this and pitch in!



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AGM and Committee

Following the AGM in July, our new committee has now been voted in, but we still have spaces left.

Chairman – Gordon Fawcett (2 years to serve)

Secretary – Jane Fawcett

Treasurer – Martin Whitaker (with assistant Margaret Charlesworth)

Business and Publicity Manager – Amy Downes

Ticket Secretary – Peter Bolton

Committee Members – Jenny Grove (1 year to serve), Ian Downes (2 years to serve) and Margaret Charlesworth (1 year to serve).

We are short of one committee member and would like to ask for a volunteer to be co-opted on to the committee!

If you would like to take a more active part in the running of the Society and see what it takes to organise a show, you will be made most welcome! The committee are a very friendly bunch, and meet once a month usually on a Monday evening. We rotate the venue around the member's houses, so you don't have to supply tea and coffee too often!

Social Committee

The main committee would like to hear from any member who has a burning desire to help with the social side of the society. Over the years we have had plenty of different social events including Barbecues, visits to the theatre, walks, cheese and wine evenings, dinners, visits to Grim's Dyke etc.

We are always interested in a social evening especially if food is involved!

If you feel you have something to contribute to this area of the society, please let the secretary know as soon as possible!

Subscriptions

Subscriptions are due on 1st September. Full membership is £50 paid in 2 instalments – 1st inst. on 1st September, 2nd inst. on 1st January; this coincides with our payments to Sandal Methodist church, which is also in 2 instalments. We will now be paying in advance for our rehearsal rooms, so would appreciate everyone paying their subscriptions promptly! Please see Martin (our Treasurer) or Margaret (our assistant Treasurer) to give them your money!



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Concerts

The Society has again been asked to perform in the church in West Bretton on Sunday 4th September from 3pm to 5pm. Rehearsals are on-going with the last 2 being on Tuesday 23rd August and Tuesday 30th August. The rehearsal on 30th August is at West Bretton, so that we can sort out seating etc.

We have been approached by one of the Hospice support groups to provide a concert on Friday 14th October, which will be a repeat of the West Bretton concert. We would like other members to join us for this concert and there will be some rehearsals in September/October for this. If you are interested in this, will you let the secretary know as soon as possible?

Carol Singing

The Society is in the process of organising Carol Singing at Wakefield Market. This will either be Saturday 10th or 17th December. We will probably do three slots of 40 min each during the morning, one in the main Hall, one in the outside covered area and one in the Food Hall. Again watch this space for details!

Costume Hire

The Mikado costumes went out to Eastbourne in May due to a contact through Pauline Hepkin in that neck of the woods (Adam – her son was producing). They looked very well on stage and the society in Eastbourne were very pleased with them!

Website - www.wakefieldgilbertandsullivan.org.uk

Keep checking the website it has a lot of useful information on there and it will keep you informed of events that are happening! If anybody has any suggestions about the website, please contact Amy Downes who will be delighted to talk about any changes to the website! She can be contacted on publicity@wakefieldgilbertandsullivan.org.uk or by telephone on 01924 223373

If you have an email address, please either send an email to the Secretary on secretary@wakefieldgilbertandsullivan.org.uk or go to the Newsletter page on the website and sign up to receive this Newsletter by email and we will add you to the list.

Alternatively, you can contact the Secretary using the details on the front page.

If you no longer want to receive this newsletter, again please inform the Secretary.