



Newsletter

March 2009

With laughing song and merry dance

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Only 16 days to go until opening night! Tickets have been selling well up to date but it is essential to the financial well-being of our society that we all make every effort to promote the show and sell, sell, sell! The Mikado is not a difficult show to sell – most people have heard of it at least!

Rehearsals have been going well. That may surprise you – it did me! However, I have it on the good authority of Ko-Ko (no less) that we are on

target and ready for the final push to polish the moves that he has taught us. Attendance has been very good in the main. Please make every effort to keep this up from now until the show. It is disorientating to be in a line of *one* when there should be four!

We should begin to give attention to both words and music now. I am sure that Jim will be expecting an improvement over the next few rehearsals – have we ever let him down?

(Don't answer that!)

Above all enjoy yourselves. If you do, then so will the audience. We have superb costumes, a freshly renovated set, excellent principals and chorus. Go to it!



Forthcoming Concerts

Thanks to those who signed up for the RNLI concert on **20th June 2009**. This was the most supported so we have agreed a concert then. The concert will take place at **Walton Village Hall at 7.00 pm**. Rehearsals will start on Tuesday 19th May at College Grove, and will continue weekly up to the concert, so please put these dates in your diary! It is essential that our public

performances are well prepared and only regular rehearsal can ensure that. If you missed the notice and would like to take part, let Ernie Lowe know as soon as possible. We have also been asked to perform for **South Milford W. I. on 15th October 2009**. We need volunteers, so if you are interested again let Ernie know. It is likely that we will be asked to do a shorter concert at a local

Masonic Lodge's Ladies' night in June, but the exact date is not yet known. There is a possibility that we may be asked to repeat this in December. We only accept requests for concerts once we are sure that there are sufficient chorus members available in each voice part, so if you have volunteered, or do so in the future, please do your very best to treat it as a firm commitment!



“A “pool” of principals would be required”

Your committee are considering concerts which are “cut-down” versions of full G&S operas. These would be similar to those performed at Grims Dyke (for those who have been!).

Simply put, Principal parts would be performed in costume as a full show with movement tailored to fit a smaller performing area. The chorus would perform as a backing choir, probably not in costume, and could use scores if necessary.

Trial by Jury, Pirates, The Mikado, and Pinafore lend themselves to this format

and offer shows of varying length. They would, need some initial rehearsal and a “pool” of principals would be required.

There are suitable venues around West Yorkshire that could be used, and one suggestion is that the society could hire these and sell tickets as for any other performance.

The benefit would be that it should be easier to fill these venues for one-off concerts and that it would introduce our work to local people who might then support our main show.

At the same time we would not be averse to letting some other organisation take the risk and keep any profit after paying us a fee!

When, or is it if, the Theatre Royal closes for a season for refurbishment then we could be ready to “go on tour” with all or any of the operas mentioned.

If you have any comments on the idea, or questions, please contact any member of the committee .

Our New Web-site

If you haven't already done so, have a look at the society's new web-site

<http://wakefieldgilbertandsullivan.org.uk/>

It is still under construction so should get more interesting as items, especially photographs and copies of old programmes, are added.



As a member, or patron, you have access to the members' page. Click on “Members noticeboard” and then click on “Members page” (both on the left hand side under “Navigation”). When asked to log-in use your first and last name as your username – including a space – e.g. Frederick Bloggs. Your password will be the same but you should change this to something else on your first visit.

General notices, such as changes to rehearsal times, will be posted on the “members noticeboard” and NOT on the front page, which is designed for the general public to access.

The committee would like to thank Amy Cooper and her brother David (a professional web designer) for their work on this, saving the society hundreds of pounds. We hope you like and use it. If you have any suggestions for content please let Amy know.

19 of you put your names down as being interested in a society “**Club night**”. Your social committee – yes we’ve got one – have therefore arranged for this to take place on **Tuesday the 31st March 2009** this being the earliest date after the show. If there are any more members/patrons/friends who would like to come please feel free, but do let us know in advance. We are hoping to provide some sort of supper so it is imperative that we have a good idea of numbers. There will be a list on the noticeboard at rehearsals, but otherwise please e-mail kathlowe1@eggconnect.net or telephone 01924 377267.

The format hasn’t yet been finalized but we are considering a quiz (general

knowledge) and some sort of sing-a-long. The best supported item on your “wish-list” was a **theatre visit**, which 32 of you showed interest in. We are attempting to arrange a trip to see “Seven brides for seven brothers” at **Leeds Grand on 30th June**. Show tickets are £25 to £30 each depending on numbers. Some of you have asked if a coach can be arranged and this would be an additional cost of £8 per head. If 20 or more people wanted to go by coach we would need a larger vehicle and the cost would go up to between £10 and £16 per head depending on the actual numbers. A final booking list will be available at rehearsals, but if you are not on the list and want to be included please contact Kath Lowe as before. The other two events that were well supported were a barbecue and an evening walk. We will be trying to organize these during the summer.

“The best supported item on your “wish-list” was a **theatre visit**”

Professionalism

This extract from the NODA magazine caught my eye. It is, of course, what we all strive for but rarely do we all achieve it, least of all me!

“Every single member of the cast, even the chorus, acted all the time from the moment they came on stage to the moment they left. There was constant interaction between characters, even if they were not directly involved in the action, with the result that there was a sense that here was a cast who were totally involved in what they were doing and clearly enjoying every minute”

As the good book says “Go ye and do likewise!”

We have a cunning plan

It has been our habit in recent years to plan for the next three years’ productions in advance. That way we can try to achieve a financial balance by avoiding two consecutive performances of those shows that we know will not cover their costs. The plan currently stands as follows:

2009	The Mikado
2010	The Gondoliers
2011	The Sorcerer

We are currently booked to perform Gondoliers at the Theatre Royal, Wakefield next March.

Peter Bolton, our treasurer, has asked me to thank all those of you who have paid the second installment of your subscriptions so promptly – and of course to pass on a gentle reminder to those few who have not!



Costume purchase

Taking the opportunity presented by Homburgs' (theatrical costumiers) closing down sale, we have acquired around 140 costumes, including many Principals' costumes, for our next show The Mikado. We also obtained some policemen's chorus outfits for Pirates, which we hope to use soon.

"We have acquired around 140 costumes."

These are all in extremely good condition. We also have a large number of wigs and some straw hats. We hope to recoup the cost of this purchase by hiring items out to other societies.

However, one of our Vice Presidents has made a substantial donation towards the cost of these costumes, and the committee would like to express our sincere gratitude on behalf of the society.

The Society is still looking for somewhere to store the costumes. If anyone knows a local church, warehouse, friends garage that we can use / rent, speak to the committee and lets get Jane's dining room empty again!

Diary dates...

The Committee

Gordon Fawcett
Jane Fawcett
Ernie Lowe
Kath Lowe
Peter Bolton
Helen Bolton
Jenny Grove
Amy Cooper

17th March – Dress rehearsal
18th March – opening night
31st March – "Club night"
19th May – Concert rehearsals
20th June – RNLI concert
30th June – Theatre trip
15th October – South Milford W.I.
Concert

We're on the Web!

See us at:

<http://wakefieldgilbertandsullivan.org.uk/>