

Rose Hill Musical Society

Newsletter

July 2008

New Season

The new season will soon be upon us. Our first rehearsal for *The Mikado* will commence at 7.30pm on Monday 1st September at Carlton Road United Reformed Church. The show itself will be staged at The Guildhall Theatre from Tuesday 14th to Saturday 18th April 2009. Please note that the committee has decided there will be no performance on Sunday 19th April. The Band Call and Dress Rehearsal will be on Easter Monday 13th April.

Auditions for principal roles will be held on Monday 29th September. A list of audition pieces was available at the AGM but if you have not already got one please contact Margaret. (Tel. 0115 9258717 or e-mail peter.featherstone4@ntlworld.com)

Vocal scores and libretti have been obtained for those who ordered them at the AGM. If you did not order one but would like one, or if you would like to have your copy before rehearsals commence, please contact Margaret. In the past it has been possible to borrow vocal scores from the County Library. If you would be interested in doing this, please let Margaret know as soon as possible. In any event please make an effort to ensure that you have access to a vocal score at the first rehearsal.

In order to help learn the individual parts, the Notebasher CDs are strongly recommended. These are produced by a lady in Lancashire who charges £9 per CD. We already have a few orders. Please let us know if you would like to buy one, indicating which vocal part you require. CDs for individual principal parts are also available from the supplier at £9 each.

For those not familiar with *The Mikado*, we can arrange to lend you a CD or DVD if you so wish.

Chairman

Our grateful thanks go to Sue Leahy, our retiring Chairman, for all that she has done over the past two years. Most of our members are probably unaware of the enormous amount of time and effort she put in behind the scenes to ensure that things ran smoothly.

We are pleased to welcome our new Chairman, John Wilson, whose introductory message is overleaf.

Stage Director

After acting as choreographer for the last two shows, Beverley Graham is taking on the additional responsibility of Stage Director. We are sure that all members will give her their full support.

We would like to thank Duncan Smith for directing our last four shows, three of which gained nominations for Eagle Awards. We were particularly grateful when he took over responsibility for the production of *The Yeomen of the Guard* at very short notice.

Musical Directors

Margaret Slater has kindly agreed to take responsibility for Monday night rehearsals for most of the season. Bryan Clarke will come in for a few rehearsals nearer the time and will conduct the show.

Message from John Wilson our new chairman

As this is the first newsletter I have been involved with, particularly as your new Chairman I had better introduce myself.

I am married to Hilary and we have 3 children and it was through her spotting an advert in the Leicester Mercury that I started rehearsing with the Leicester Gilbert & Sullivan Society in September 2000. After our younger son had sat his A levels in 2006 we moved to Derby to save my daily commute and in that September I started with Rose Hill.

I am a Partner in a firm of Chartered Accountants Blythe Squires Wilson. There is a certain irony that Reg Squires and I merged our firm with Arthur Blythe & Co in 2001.

Arthur Blythe was, I understand, a founder member of Rose Hill: Bill Lane, a former partner, is a Vice-President and Honorary Life Member and was much involved with the society, and Alan Castledine, who remains as a Partner with Reg and myself, sang with the society for 19 years and has been the society's auditor for some years.

The idea of the Newsletter is to keep in touch with all members of the Society active or non-active, playing or back room support because you are all what makes the Society tick. We will hopefully have future newsletters but they may get a bit 'tired' if it turns out that Margaret Featherstone and I find ourselves writing most of them. So let us have news and reviews for the next one. One topic could be a review from the Buxton festival, for more see below.....

If we needed a theme for this newsletter then it would be the recruitment of men, tenors and basses; all amateur groups suffer from the lack of these shy, retiring creatures. The committee will organize posters for colleges and church halls and will advertise nearer the time in the local press, BUT more often than not it is the personal approach of inviting colleagues, friends or relations along that usually works best. So if you can arrange to put up a poster please can you contact David or Samantha Fletcher (davidfletcher43@btinternet.com).

The Buxton Festival or more grandly entitled '15th International Gilbert & Sullivan Festival' runs from Saturday 2nd through to Saturday 23rd August. I am aiming to go on Monday 18th August to see 'The Mikado' performed by Edmund Rice Group from Ireland. Tickets are £17.50 and £16.00. Three people gave me their names at the AGM viz Sandra Stone, Sue Tristram and Pat Brown, so if those ladies would like to contact me (j.wilson@blythesquireswilson.co.uk) I will arrange tickets and make up one car load. If others are interested then give your names to Margaret and she will put people in touch to arrange, if possible other car loads.

John Wilson

Footnote:

On the last day of my holidays I visited a National Trust property in South Devon called Coleton Fishacre. This is a house built in 1926 by Rupert D'Oyly Carte and his wife. Rupert D'Oyly Carte was the son of Richard, the business partner of Gilbert & Sullivan and inherited his father's business interests. Although there is not much G & S memorabilia in the house, there is a small exhibition showing the sets and costumes commissioned for *The Mikado* in 1926. You can't get away from it!