

Eody Farnborough Amateur Operatic Society

From our Chairman

Dear Members,

Christmas is well nigh upon us, and has been coming up for some time in the shops it seems. Although, when I see the growing excitement of my 33 month old my grandson, I suppose it still retains its magic for the kids and, of course, it has not lost its joy for all ages of bringing families together. On a sad note, however, some days ago on November 17, June and I attended a memorial service at St Laurence's Church in Ludlow for Cliff Bell who had died suddenly a few days before. Cliff and Pam were two of our oldest friends and I'm sure that many of our members will recall that both were active participants in our shows from the early 60's to the mid 80's and so also at the later stages were their daughters Fiona and Wendy, who now have their own flourishing young families.

Rehearsals for *H.M.S. Pinafore* are well under way and we have now completed the full chorus music rehearsals. The amount of music to be learnt has represented a formidable challenge to us all but I'm happy to report that our MD is satisfied with progress and the music is, of course, splendid. Judging by the great deal of laughter at rehearsals, this somewhat saucy, updated version of the show from Australia will be a most entertaining as well as a musical spectacular to delight our audiences. So come along in droves, with as many friends and family as you can muster and join Captain Corcoran and his gallant crew, dear 'Little' Buttercup, Admiral Sir Joseph Porter and his sisters and his cousins and his aunts for a really fun evening!

A Happy Christmas and Prosperous New Year to you all!

Haydn

Society News

Ryan Nesbit was born on 4th October (the day after Clare's birthday) at 9.28am (very civilised) and he weighed 7lbs 31/2oz.

Clare has said that everyone has commented on how he's the spitting image of Stuart and she is inclined to agree with them!



Tania and Stuart Armes are delighted to announce the birth of Conner James Stuart who was born on 17 July 2006, a lovely brother for Ethan. Fortunately, Ethan loves his baby brother and the two exchange lots of smiles and cuddles. Mummy and Daddy are adjusting to their new role of parents to two children, which whilst a lot of work is the best job in the world; we are loving every minute.

We would like to thank everyone for all their kind wishes and gifts.

From Sue Sampson

"Hail to thee blithe spirits" – I thought I would kick off this contribution to the newsletter with a bit of class. Email me with the author/character and play for a small prize!!!(Chorus lines in "Forum"!!!) I do hope that you are all enjoying "Pinafore" and I'm enjoying having a bit of a break before "Forum".

Forum is going to be huge fun and a challenge as farce has to be fast and furious for it to produce the belly laughs we need. I am looking at how to expand the chorus involvement so there will be lots to do.

Now they (the anonymous they) always say be interesting and informative in your contribution to the newsletter so I thought what could I tell you about? The only thing that I have lived and breathed these last few months is the new house so here are a few tips for the house movers amongst you.

1. Send out an email requesting help when you move – you'll get every possession you ever owned bubble wrapped! (Thank you Karen you were wonderful)
2. Stay at Eric and Hazel's because you have no bed, duvet, lights and the room you were going to sleep in stinks of dog wee! (Thank you so much Hazel and Eric for welcoming two exhausted and filthy homeless people into your spotlessly clean home.)
3. Get your much loved Ex to come and work himself to a stand still dragging rubbish out of the garden(Thanks Dave – Gawd bless ya!)
4. Invite all your friends round and make your housewarming do really good fun even after a torrential downpour. (Thank you everybody)
5. Get all your mates to come round and bring their "guys" and make your Firework do really good fun even after waiting ages for the bonfire to light. (Thank you everybody and Chris Armes for bringing such a whopper!)
5. Move a swing seat – This is Roger's specialist subject should he ever go on Mastermind – he's a dab hand with a claw hammer. (Thank you Roger and Anne Marie)
6. Unload Lorries in the pouring rain – Have you seen Mark's tattoo???(Thank you Mark and Catherine)

We have had such fun since we moved and have been made to feel so welcome, Joyce comes for coffee which is lovely as nobody ever popped into our Camberley house. We now have a new door knocker and four toilets that work so do drop by!!!

With love from all at "The Playhouse"

From the Publicity Manager

Well, rehearsals are well underway for HMS Pinafore with a great cast. Already, the wheels are in motion for the next publicity drive. We have welcomed on board another enthusiastic team member (who is busy cleaning banners as I write – and anyone who has had the pleasure of cleaning these banners will understand what a grand job he is doing!!!!) Thank you Graham – very much appreciated.

I'd like to take this opportunity of welcoming all the new members and ask that if they have any useful contacts such as editors of local newspapers, council members, shop owners, church groups etc to please let myself, Tim or Graham know. The role of publicity is getting harder and harder and any new avenue that we can gain would be gratefully received.

We need **every** cast member to help with selling this show – please don't be saying on the Friday night of show week – "hey, this is a really great show – I wish I'd sold more tickets". I went to see another society do a show at the end of November and their ticket sales weren't great. It was such a shame as it was a fantastic show (well done Philip!!) and a few of the cast made the comment to me afterwards "a few weeks before the show we didn't think it would ever be any good but now - this was the Saturday night - I wish I'd made more effort to sell tickets!!"

And, don't forget "Elaine's Mailing List" – if you have some friends that would like to be informed of this and future shows let her have their details. It will save you the hassle of organising the tickets and getting all the monies in - let "Elaine take the strain". Hey, that's a good slogan!

Anyway, I will climb down off my soap box and leave this with you but don't hesitate to contact me or any other member of the team if you have any ideas that would help to promote the show.

For your information the publicity team consists of: Chrissie, Tim, Chris, Lucy and Graham.

Chrissie White

From the Front of House Manager

Firstly, I would like to say a big thank you to everyone that helped out FoH during OWALW, especially those people that deputised for me during Act 2 when I went on the stage - which is something I'm not likely to repeat in a hurry! No doubt HMS Pinafore will be upon us sooner than we think and I'll be trawling around looking for people to help again. Unfortunately for one reason or other the number of people who regularly help FoH is gradually going down and I'm increasingly reliant on those members who usually appear on the stage but are 'resting' this time round to help. So if you fall into this category and would like to help out please drop me a line. As usual I will need both stewards, people to help sell coffee/sweets and programme sellers. Good luck with the rehearsals and make sure you keep selling tickets so we get the support you all deserve.

Darren

Position – Vacant

If anyone would like to help me with a job share of Publicity Manager please let me know. I took on this role for one show (the last one) and I'm still here! Ideally, I would prefer to do one show a year so if there is anyone who would like to help me out – no experience required – please email me on chrissyw@dazwhite.f9.co.uk



"Anyone who sends me junk e-mail is automatically added to the 'naughty' list!"

Flora London Marathon 2007

I am pleased to announce that I will be running the Flora London Marathon 2007 in aid of children with Leukaemia . This is a charity very close to my family's heart as I lost a cousin to the disease thirteen years ago.

I am very excited to be part of such a prestigious sporting event and would like to invite you all to support me in the many fund raising events that I will be organising from January 2007. Watch this space for details.

I will be running the Fleet Half Marathon on Sunday 11th March 2007, as a warm up!! If anyone would like to join me please let me know. Also if anyone would like to join me in training sessions please let me know.

I know I am 'mad' and I don't know when I will fit in the training but life is too short and I feel I really want to help a very worthy cause especially as I have three healthy children.

Please support me with what ever sponsorship you can give.

Jane Mumford

Any old rubbish! - RECYCLING FOR CHARITY

If anyone has any used ink cartridges, stamps, tin foil, mobile phones - don't throw them away. Kieran's school recycles them all by passing them onto charities. Leave anything in the cupboard at rehearsals and I can collect from there.

Thanks, Christine and Kieran

Advertising Opportunity

Have you thought about raising awareness for your company in our show programme? If there are any new or existing members who run their own business or know of someone who would like to take the opportunity of running an ad in our programme please let myself or Chris Armes know as soon as possible. The programme, on average, reaches approximately 1,000 people for the run of the week. I am sure Chris is happy to discuss costs with any member who would like to place a half or full page ad.

Chrissie White
Publicity Manager



Nicky and Joanne getting physical!

The Night the Girls Kicked (or should that be bit) Back!

In November, Nick Main arranged an evening of self defence for members of the society. Despite the evening being open to everyone, the men were very scarce (in fact David was the only one!) however 9 very enthusiastic girls turned up to learn how to defend themselves should they be attacked. Nick taught the girls some basic self defence techniques which included biting, kicking and punching (very therapeutic!) It was a thoroughly enjoyable evening and lots of fun was had by all. If anyone is interested in learning about self defence or martial arts, Nick teaches at various locations around the area (including Hart Leisure Centre and Camberley Arena). Details can be obtained from either Sue Sampson or Dave Main.



Witches of Eastwick

30th March 07 to 7th April 07
at The Ben Travers Theatre, Charterhouse

Mary Heath will be flying as Alex Spofford and for those who saw Ghosts "Jekyll & Hyde" the fantastic Abbey Addams (Lucy) will be flying too as Sukie Rougemont and Darren Street (who played Messrs Jekyll and Hyde) will be Daryl Van Home. Rachel Davison also features as Brenda Parsley.

Farnham Operatic Society are proud to present
Gilbert & Sullivan's

The Yeomen of the Guard

The Farnham Maltings
23 – 27 January 2007

Whether you are young or old, new to operetta or a life-long fan, you won't want to miss this production of Gilbert & Sullivan's Yeomen of The Guard by the Farnham Operatic Society (FAOS).

With comedy, drama, treachery, unrequited love and a fantastic score, this show is a traditional interpretation set in the 16th century. Colonel Fairfax is imprisoned in the Tower of London awaiting execution on a false charge of sorcery. To prevent his accuser getting his inheritance he decides to marry before the fateful moment. Assisted by the Lieutenant of the Tower, Fairfax secretly meets Elsie Maynard, a strolling singer and pays her to marry him.

She does it for the money, but Fairfax escapes from his cell and, in disguise, woos Elsie and they fall deeply in love. Sadly, the jester, Jack Point still adores his fellow entertainer, Elsie, but his feelings remain unrequited and at the end he falls broken-hearted at her feet

A great FAOS cast includes: Phil Street (Colonel Fairfax), Nigel Morley (Jack Point) Tony Ostime (Sgt. Merryll), Lara Street (Elsie) and Charlie McGowan (Phoebe). The production is directed by Sally Wooding with musical direction by Graham Gale.

Tickets can be obtained in advance until 30 December on 01252 721312

the Maltings Box Office opens from Friday 5 January 2007

Box Office: 01252 726234

Evening: 7.30pm Sat. Matinee: 2.30pm

Tickets: £10-£13 Student/Children: £6.00

www.faos.org.uk

SHOW NEWS – HMS Pinafore

From the Director

Being a lover of G & S shows, I am thoroughly enjoying the singing rehearsals for HMS Pinafore. It is great to get back to a singing show. I have hardly touched on the libretto and movement side yet, but with a very good cast, this should be a fun show to direct. Unfortunately there is no revolve set available in this country, so we are left with a traditional one-setter, which means the back stage crew will have very little to do during show week. But Mike has plenty of help and will rotate them to keep up the interest. It is very important to keep a good crew as some shows can be pretty frantic on the scene changing front – I know as I have been there!! The Australian version of 'Pinafore' is very much like the original, but with some added numbers from 'Princess Ida' and 'Ruddigore', and the part of Dick Deadeye greatly enhanced to make him the spokesman for the whole show. The orchestration is more modern with interesting changes of timing and style. We have introduced a small dance team who will do more complicated moves in front of the chorus but will not sing anything on their own. This should make for a lively show to look at with good solid singing from the rest of the chorus. So all you members who can't always get to see every show, make this a must for your diary. You will not be disappointed. After all, someone thinks we have the right formula, as we won another NODA award for Copacabana. Did you hear this?

On to other topics. It must be baby boom year! Everyone seems to be having babies this year. Well not everyone, but congratulations to Tanya and Stuart, Helen and Mark, Clare and Stewart and my Adrian and Kate, all who have produced lovely babies in the last few months. My grand-child was a little girl, Lorna, born on August 6th. All these children are doing well and are no doubt adored by their parents. All new members for the Op Soc perhaps?

On a sad note I report the passing of Cliff Bell, who was a member for many years in the 60's and 70's and played a number of leading roles with us. He and his wife Pam moved down to Ludlow about 20 years ago, but Haydn and I kept in touch and had one or two holidays with them over the years. We attended the Memorial service in the Parish church in Ludlow on Friday 17th November. It was very well attended and very moving. Cliff had been a keen member of the local golf club and also a Rotarian so his life in Ludlow had been very full and rewarding. It is interesting to note that the St George flag flying on the flagpole at the church had just been donated by Cliff, and was flying for the first time on Remembrance Sunday, just a few days after he had passed away.

So with plenty of work in 'Pinafore' for me still to do, I wish each and every one of you a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

Regards, June

From the Stage Manager

This a fairly quiet time for the crew. With nothing to make for Pinafore and very little anticipated for Forum we are making use of this time to give the Scenery Hut a blitz. Since we moved in there has been very little separate storage space to enable us to build and paint anything in ideal conditions. We have constructed another storage unit on site, which is complete (and in use) apart from a finish coat of paint and guttering. We are now setting-too on the main room and progress is being made. Our big project is to re-felt the two side units which house our furniture and props. These have been leaking for a while and getting progressively worse. We have probably lost some items because of this. Time and weather are the two enemies for this project. With not being able to accurately predict what the weather will be like it is difficult to arrange people to be on hand to get this work done. Hopefully we will be able to tackle it in the New Year.

Well that's a snapshot of what the crew have been up to to-date.

It only remains to wish everyone Seasons greetings and a successful and happy New Year for myself and the Crew.

Mike Davall

From the Musical Director

Over the six months since the last newsletter, I have had the rewarding task of reviewing the Essgee vocal score for HMS Pinafore to adapt it for a British audience, by topical changes to the lyrics and adaptation of the chorus music to suit a full ladies chorus (instead of just 3 in the Essgee Production) and to make the music easier to learn, because there is a much larger amount than we are used to. As a result I have grown to appreciate the skill of the Australian arrangers who produced this updated, fresh version of the traditional G&S original. Consequently, when music rehearsals commenced, I was fired with enthusiasm to see how the CAOS revise to the Essgee revise of the original fared. I was rewarded with a largish cast at the first chorus rehearsal, splendid singing from the start and good attendance thereafter. Also I must mention the successful auditions that have produced our talented line-up of principals. I also must express my thanks to Paul T for sharing the workload of early chorus rehearsals to double our rate of progress. So thank you everybody, and, now we are well into production, I feel that June, Sue and I will have your continued support to produce a super production of this fresh and original show.

Finally Carrie and I wish all the Society members a very happy Christmas.

Derek

Christmas Message Board

As has now become traditional for us, we will be supporting homeless and children's charities instead of giving Christmas cards.

A very merry Christmas, and a happy, healthy and prosperous 2007 to all our friends, old and new.

And remember, at Christmas play and make good cheer, for Christmas comes but once a year.

With all best wishes,
Martin and Sue xxx

**Elaine & Peter Adams
wish all fellow members
a Happy Christmas &
New Year
A donation has been
made to Chailey
Heritage School**

To our all Op Soc Friends,

Just wanted to send all our love to our friends at Christmas. My message this year is, unfortunately, tinged with sadness. As most of you were aware, my friends little girl was taken seriously ill during the week of "Singin' in the Rain", and at the end of August she lost her tremendous battle for life. We have, therefore, decided this year to make our donation to "Christopher's CHASE Hospice for children and the Royal Marsden Cancer Campaign.

Lots of love, Christine, Darren and Kieran xxx

Merry Christmas From the Secretaries
We hope you have a very Happy Christmas and New Year.
From Jane and Lynda.

I'd like to wish everyone a very merry Christmas and a prosperous new year.
Best wishes from Nicky & Jacob Sully

A Christmas Prayer...

"Dear Lord. I've been asked, nay commanded, to thank Thee for the Christmas turkey before us ... a turkey which was no doubt a lively, intelligent bird ... a social being ... capable of actual affection ... nuzzling its young with almost human-like compassion. Anyway, it's dead and we're gonna eat it. Please give our respects to its family ..."

Final Word.... from the editor!

Well all it remains is for me to thank everyone who has contributed to this newsletter, I hope you have enjoyed reading it and it inspires you to contribute to the next newsletter which will be published in June 2007. I'd especially love to hear from any new members, tell us about yourselves, how you came to join the society, what you think of the society or anything else that you'd like to tell everyone.

Nicky

