



# The University of York Gilbert and Sullivan Society

November 2006

Hello and welcome to the University of York Gilbert and Sullivan society's newsletter for November 2006. Hopefully this letter will let you know what's going on in the society at the moment, what's coming up and how you could help us. If you know of anyone who hasn't received this and would like to, please ask them to send us their contact details (preferably email) so we can keep them informed too!

## Yarrgh!

The most popular word in the society this year is undoubtedly Yarrgh! as we get into character for this year's main show, *The Pirates of Penzance*. The new academic year got off to a swashbuckling start with society members dressing up as pirates to man the stall at Freshers' Fair. We had a good number of people signing up to all sections of the society, and those who turned up at the first rehearsal of term had the opportunity to get involved immediately, playing some interesting (!) games and singing some of the music of *Pirates*. Due to the sad demise of Langwith bar, the society then retired to Derwent to continue welcoming our new members.

The social side of the society has also got off to a good start this term. The second rehearsal was followed by a treasure hunt around campus, with chocolate coins proving a popular incentive for solving cryptic clues! As a mid-term social we visited that traditional society favourite, the wonderful Willow. A Christmas party games social is also being planned.

## Setting the scenes

The show wouldn't be the same, of course, without a set, scenery, lighting and sound. We are currently applying for money to help cover the costs of microphones for our shows, and other fundraising is taking place to raise the rest of the money for costumes, posters, lighting and so on. Our amazing Press and Publicity team are looking for sponsorship from people or

businesses to help us make the show look as good as we possibly can. If a business you know of can help, or you would like to give a donation, please contact us at [info@gsyork.co.uk](mailto:info@gsyork.co.uk) or at the address below.

## For thirty-five years...

This year sees the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Society's first production, which coincidentally was also *The Pirates of Penzance*. We are currently planning how to mark this feat of survival, and we want to hear from you! Next term, hopefully on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> March, we would like to invite all old members and FOGS to a celebratory meal in York. However, to help us plan we need to know how many people would be interested in attending. Please CONTACT US at [info@gsyork.co.uk](mailto:info@gsyork.co.uk) or via the address below to let us know if you are interested in coming. Also, if you're in contact with other people who used to be involved, please pass the message onto them. We'd love to see as many former members as possible to help us celebrate.

## Tell us all about it!

If you have fond memories of shows, socials or other activities you were involved in with the society, whether it was three years ago or thirty, we'd love to hear from you! We're trying to add to our archive and need YOUR memories of what went on in bygone days. Email or write to us at the address below. We look forward to reading your contributions!



The 35<sup>th</sup> Dragoon Guards brandish their swords before *Patience*.

## What precious nonsense!

Our last G&S show was *Patience*, which we presented in Central Hall last February. The audience thought that our show, directed by Frankie Thomas and Leah Duffield with Matt Collins as Musical Director, was excellent, although marching in time (almost!) proved a challenge for the men!



Fun and games on the 48hr *Gondoliers* weekend away.

After our AGM, we rehearsed and performed our annual concert of G&S highlights in Goole parish church, as well as watching the excellent DVD of *Patience* (contact the society if you would like to buy a copy), complete with hilarious extras and 'making of' features.

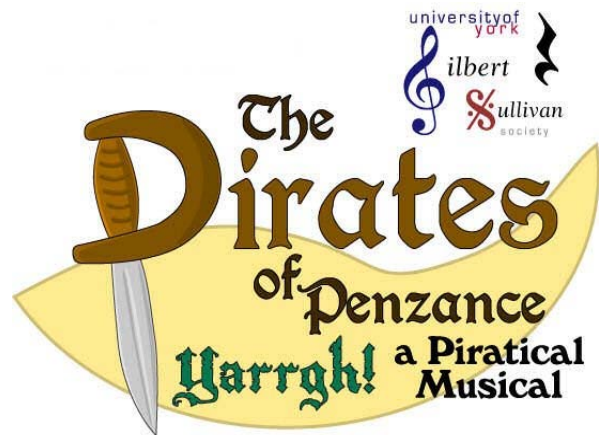
In May we tried a new event, a joint weekend away with Manchester Universities Gilbert and Sullivan Society. We cast, rehearsed and performed a concert version of *The Gondoliers* with dialogue in 48 hours! Everyone involved had great fun and we hope to repeat the experience with a return visit to Manchester.



Some of the cast of *Guys & Dolls* back-stage.

After that excitement, rehearsals continued for our summer production of *Guys and Dolls*. Our most ambitious summer show to date, this proved a great success, with tickets selling fast and large audiences enjoying our production. If the marching required of the men in *Patience* had been a challenge, the dancing for this show stretched the limits of how much can be

achieved in 8 weeks of rehearsal time, and included some of the quickest costume changes on record!



Directed by Chris Charlton and Mark Pim  
Musical Director Robbie Berryman  
Technical Director Chris Armstrong

Performances will be held in the University of York's Central Hall on February 15<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm, with a matinee 2.30pm on the 17<sup>th</sup>. Tickets prices will be:

£3.50 students

£5 concessions and Friends of G&S

£10 adults

We would encourage you to book in advance to be sure of getting the concessionary rate as FOGS. Please contact us, or see our website nearer the show dates to book tickets. We look forward to seeing you there for what promises to be a great show!

### Contact us:

Email: [info@gsyork.co.uk](mailto:info@gsyork.co.uk)

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