



The FOGS horn

Tan tan tara!
The newsletter for friends of the University of York Gilbert and Sullivan Society.

Welcome to the third issue of the FOGS horn! We've got lots of news on what's been happening in the society and what's coming up, as well as introducing our new committee.

Pirates, police and a bevy of beautiful maidens!

In February the Pirates of Penzance invaded campus! This year's main show was incredibly successful, with larger audiences than in previous years. Those who came to see the show have given us lots of positive feedback, and judging from the audience responses during the shows, they enjoyed watching it as much as we enjoyed performing!



The cast of *Pirates* 2007.

Anniversary celebrations.

On 10th March we celebrated our 35th anniversary in style! In the afternoon we had a singalong session where members past and present sang along to some of our favourite choruses.

In the evening a formal dinner was held, followed by a ceilidh organised by some of our own members. We were fortunate to be joined not only by the society's founder, Frank Banks, but by our honorary president, Paul Howarth (curator of the G&S archive website, an invaluable resource for G&S addicts!), who was appointed last year following the retirement of the previous president, Thomas Round.



Society founder Frank Banks cuts the cakes at our anniversary dinner, with help from outgoing chair Andrew Lawson and incoming chair Lauren Matthews.

Current members were joined by past members to enjoy dinner at the Park Hotel in York. 2006-07 chair Andrew Lawson gave a fantastic speech about the society, saying that it was great because of the people in it, whether or not they were G&S fans or just enjoyed what the society has to offer in socials and performing.

During the ceilidh, the two anniversary cakes were cut by Frank Banks and the outgoing and incoming chairs of the society. One cake featured the society's logo, while a ship sailed across the other.

Guests also enjoyed looking through a display of material from the society's archive, including programmes and posters from all 35 years, and (courtesy of the Banks') the flyers given out to people asking if they would like to help found a G&S society!

Video library and archive- can you help?

Following our anniversary celebrations, we are trying to bring our archive up to date. We would especially like to know if anyone has videos which are missing from our collection, as we are hoping to digitise them. Videos we are missing include: any pre-1985 (if they exist), 1986, 87, 88, 1995, 1999 and 2000. We also would be interested to know about any video or audio recordings

of summer shows or concerts from before 2002.



Members past and present enjoy our 35th Anniversary dinner.

Future Plans

On 8th March the society held its Annual General Meeting. We decided that our main show, to be performed next February, will be *Ruddigore*, which beat off competition from *The Yeomen of the Guard* and *The Mikado*, among others.

We also elected the new committee which has now taken over the running of the society.

Chair: Lauren Matthews.

Secretary: Stuart Roberts.

Treasurer: Thomas Newby.

Press & Publicity Officers: Jackie Smithers, Morven Hamilton & Megan Bryan.

Webmaster: Michael Houston.

Ordinary Members: James Knowles, James Gaughan, Jim Durdin and Lauren Wade.

On 15th March the old and new committees met to decide on the show and directors for the summer term. We are planning to do a show comprising 20 minutes each from 5 different musicals. James Knowles will lead the directorial team, with help from Chris Charlton. The show will also provide a chance for other members of the society to develop their directorial skills by co-directing a section. Mark Pim will be musically directing, while we believe that Fiona Constantine may be making society history as our first female Technical Director!

Another meeting will be held late in the summer term to decide on the directorial team for *Ruddigore*.

Answers to the piratical quiz from the previous issue.

1. In what year was *The Pirates of Penzance* first performed?
1879.

2. What was unusual about the location of the premier?
It opened simultaneously in Paignton, Devon, and New York to protect copyright.

3. Which earlier work by G&S was the song "Climbing over rocky mountain" taken from?
***Thespis*.**

4. What do the Major-General's daughters have in common with Phyllis from *Iolanthe*?
They are all wards in chancery.

5. How many times has York G&S performed *Pirates*?
This year was the 5th performance: 1973, 1982, 1990, 2000, 2007.

6. When will Frederic's next birthday be?
29th February 2008.

7. What, according to the Pirate King, is comparatively honest when compared to respectability?
Piracy.

8. Of what kind of theorem was the Major-General teeming with news?
Binomial.

9. Which other G&S operetta is set in Cornwall?
***Ruddigore*.**

10. What is the name of the Major-General's castle?
***Tremorven*.**

Contact us:

Email: info@gsyork.co.uk

Website: www.gsyork.co.uk

Post: The Gilbert and Sullivan Society
Daw Suu Centre
Goodricke College
University of York
Heslington
York
YO10 5DD