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*HILARIOUS VICTORIAN MELODRAMATIC OPERA*

# RUDDIGORE

AT  
THE PLAYHOUSE

HALIFAX

from

Monday 31st October  
to  
Saturday 5th November  
at  
7.30 pm



Producers

Ian and Lesley Henderson

Musical Director

James Newby

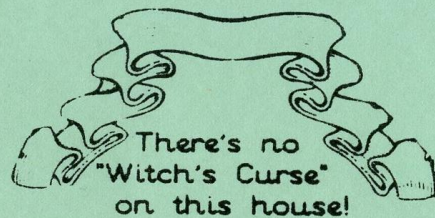
Members of the  
West Yorkshire Orchestra



# The Murgatroyd Arms

Skircoat Green

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### The Halifax Gilbert and Sullivan Society

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A K HEADFORD ESQ	B PRIESTLEY ESQ
I HENDERSON ESQ	MRS S A PRIESTLEY
MRS A HORNER	J THOMPSON ESQ
R HORNER ESQ	DR B ROISOVSKI
MISS J HUBY	K WORSMAN ESQ

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A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN .....

Dear Friends

In this our twentieth anniversary year, The Halifax Gilbert and Sullivan Society are delighted to present their show - "Ruddigore". In addition to the annual production, the Society give many concerts, both in Halifax and further afield. In recent years our venues have included Nunnington Hall in North Yorkshire and the Rowntrees Theatre, York.

The Society rehearse through the year, normally on Friday evenings, at All Saints Church Hall, Skircoat Green. Each month we have a club night when we welcome our non-singing members to an evening of entertainment. If you enjoy the show and would like to become a patron, or indeed a member, we would be very pleased to meet you. All patrons and friends are invited to join us for a musical evening at All Saints Hall on Friday, 25th November when there will be an opportunity to listen to (or join in if you are so inclined) a selection of the most well known pieces from the Gilbert and Sullivan operas.

In the meantime, we hope that you have a very enjoyable evening at the show.

Mary Ward  
(Chairman)

\*\*\*\*\*

THE SOCIETY IS ALWAYS READY TO WELCOME

NEW SINGING MEMBERS

NON-SINGING MEMBERS

PATRONS

Come along to the Patrons' Evening, 25th November, 1988 in All Saints Parish Hall, Godfrey Road for full details.

EVERYONE IS WELCOME



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THE STORY SO FAR ....

In a quiet bay on the rugged Cornish coast nestles the fishing village of Rederring, overlooked by the grim silhouette of Ruddigore Castle, home of the bad baronets of the Murgatroyd family.

A distant ancestor of this family had brought down a curse upon his line, whereby every holder of the title was compelled to commit a daily crime, or else perish in inconceivable agony. As each successive baronet thus perished, so his portrait took its place in the baronial Picture Gallery as a silent witness to the present incumbent's diligence in fulfilling his criminal duty.

Ten years ago, upon the death of Sir Roderic Murgatroyd, his elder nephew Ruthven should have succeeded to the title, but in horror at the prospect he feigned his own death and assumed the identity of Robin Oakapple, a gentleman farmer. His younger brother Despard was thus compelled to succeed to the title and the life of crime that went with it. During his ten villainous years Despard has first wooed and then abandoned Mad Margaret, who remains wildly in love with him.

\* \* \* \* \*

The village of Rederring is unique in possessing an endowed corps of professional bridesmaids, bound to be on duty every day from ten till four against the possibility of a hasty wedding. It is also notable for the dullness of its male inhabitants, which makes such a possibility unlikely, and explains the delight with which the ladies of the village welcome any gentlemen day-trippers from the city.

The maiden most likely to give the bridesmaids an excuse to perform their duty is sweet Rose Maybud, who harbours a secret admiration for Robin Oakapple. Robin feels the same way about Rose, but both are too shy to reveal their true feelings for each other. The result is frustration all round, not least for the professional bridesmaids, who can see their chances of appearance money disappearing rapidly.

\* \* \* \* \*

Into this stalemate sails Dick Dauntless, Robin's foster-brother, who has spent the last ten years on highly questionable operations with the Royal Navy, and who is one of only two people to know Robin's guilty secret (the other is Old Adam, the faithful retainer).

Dick offers to win Rose's heart for Robin, but, as we shall discover, hearts are funny things, and often lead you where you least expected.

The bridesmaids, of course, aren't bothered where they lead, as long as it's to a paying engagement.



NOW LET THE OPERA TAKE OVER ....



**DRAMATIS PERSONAE**

SIR RUTHVEN MURGATROYD ..... MITCHELL WOLFE  
*(Disguised as Robin Oakapple, a young farmer)*

RICHARD DAUNTLESS ..... RICHARD BUXTON  
*(His foster-brother, a man o'wars man)*

SIR DESPARD MURGATROYD ..... STEVEN MELLOR  
*(Of Ruddigore - a wicked baronet)*

SIR RODERIC MURGATROYD ..... DAVID WARD  
*(The twenty-first baronet)*

OLD ADAM GOODHEART ..... JOHN GARNER  
*(Robin's faithful servant)*

ROSE MAYBUD ..... PATRICIA CASTLE  
*(A village maiden)*

MAD MARGARET ..... JANET COWLEY

DAME HANNAH ..... ANGELA FULLER  
*(Rose's aunt)*

ZORAH ..... KATHRYN BUXTON  
*(A professional bridesmaid)*

RUTH ..... MARY WARD  
*(A professional bridesmaid)*

Chorus of professional bridesmaids, officers, ancestors and villagers.

Liz Atkinson, Elizabeth Bellamy, Jane Fellows, Jane Harmer, Stephanie Loughe, Muriel Mellor, Shirley Mitchell, Christine Priestley, Shirley Robertshaw, Barbara Thompson, Philip Bickford-Smith, John Child, Richard Fellows, Frank Hogan, John Hughes, John Priestley, Leyland Smith, John Thompson, John Wilson.

PRODUCERS ..... LESLEY AND IAN HENDERSON

MUSICAL DIRECTOR ..... JAMES NEWBY

MEMBERS OF THE WEST YORKSHIRE ORCHESTRA

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ACT 1. The fishing village of Rederring in Cornwall

ACT 2. The picture gallery of Ruddigore Castle

**MUSICAL NUMBERS**

**ACT 1**

- Overture
1. Chorus of bridesmaids ..... Fair is Rose
  2. Song (Hannah and Chorus) ..... Sir Rupert Murgatroyd his leisure
  3. Song (Rose) ..... If somebody there chanced to be
  4. Duet (Rose and Robin) ..... I know a youth
  5. Chorus of bridesmaids and song (Richard) ..... From the briny sea
  6. Hornpipe
  7. Song (Robin) ..... My boy you may take if from me
  8. Duet (Rose and Richard) ..... The battle's roar is over
  9. Entrance of bridesmaids ..... If well his suit has sped
  10. Trio (Rose, Richard and Robin) ..... In sailing o'er life's ocean wide
  11. Recit and Aria (Margaret) ..... Cheerily carols the lark
  12. Chorus ..... Welcome gentry
  13. Song and Chorus (Sir Despard) ..... Oh, why am I moody and sad
  14. Duet (Richard and Sir Despard) ..... You understand? I think I do
  15. Finale ..... Hail the bride

**ACT 2**

1. Duet (Sir Ruthven and Adam) ..... I once was as meek
2. Duet and Chorus (Rose and Richard) ..... Happily coupled are we
3. Song (Rose with Chorus of bridesmaids) ..... In bygone days
4. Chorus of Ancestors (Sir Ruthven and Sir Roderic) ..... Painted emblems
5. Song (Sir Roderic and Chorus) ..... When the night wind howls
6. Chorus ..... He yields
7. Duet (Margaret and Sir Despard) ..... I once was a very
8. Trio (Margaret, Sir Ruthven, Sir Despard) ..... My eyes are fully open
9. Melodrama
10. Song (Hannah with Sir Roderic) ..... There grew a little flower
11. Finale ..... On, happy the lily



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### ABOUT THE PRODUCERS .....

Producing for the first time, the husband and wife team of Ian and Lesley Henderson bring to "Ruddigore" a love of Gilbert and Sullivan and an extensive knowledge of the Savoy Operas having been involved from their teens when they met in a Youth Production of "The Sorcerer". They were members of the Society in their native Edinburgh before moving to Halifax, and have been members of our Society from its infancy. They are active members and have taken part in most of our previous shows. In addition, they have been regular soloists in concert work and also hardworking committee members. They have been involved in the productions of other amateur societies and have taken leading roles in all the Gilbert and Sullivan operas, both on the stage and in concert versions. During the day, Ian is a Chartered Accountant and Lesley is training to become a speech therapist.

### ABOUT THE MUSICAL DIRECTOR .....

This will be Jim Newby's second show as Musical Director for our Society and his wealth of musical experience and expertise are greatly appreciated. Not only is he a notable conductor, but has also made his mark as arranger, composer, music consultant and pianist, and has produced several stage shows. His talents are many and varied and his musical interests range from Church music and opera to Gilbert and Sullivan and modern musicals. Jim's work is well known, not only here in the North of England, but also in Florida USA and Waterford in Ireland as Musical Director of the West Yorkshire Savoyards. During the day, Jim is a teacher, teaching computing and, of course, music.

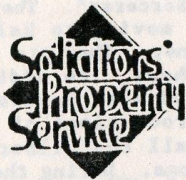
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### LIST OF PATRONS

Mr A Bowker  
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Mr and Mrs J R D Butterworth  
Mr A E Fawthrop  
Mr and Mrs J C Fleming  
Mrs S Forest  
Mrs J Gill  
Mr D Horsfall  
Mr and Mrs Kenyon

Miss C Melrose  
Mrs P M Murray  
Mrs M Newby  
Mr and Mrs Oldfield  
Mr and Mrs A G Slack  
Mrs J Smith  
Mr and Mrs Verity  
Mrs C M Whittle  
Mrs Wood





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FIND THE CHARACTERS

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O T Z O P E H T N A L O I B U E  
N L I K B H T R O N I O L E M P  
S E U A U R Y A I L O R I L Y B  
T H L T N E A L K P D U O T U O  
A C I I T L F A I R F A X L M E  
N N R S H A E K D S H C D U F R  
C A Y H O M N U O R A T F A L O  
E L C A R A H S M R A D I Z M N  
L M E D N G A H A A L P E D L E  
I E E B E T B E B M S N S K E V  
A I I O E S O R E A I S O W G S  
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current production of

RUDDIGORE

A FEW DATES FOR YOUR DIARY .....

Friday, 25th November, 1988 in All Saints Parish Hall, Godfrey Road.

Patrons and friends are invited to an evening of songs and snatches from the Savoy Operas.

Friday, 9th December and Friday, 16th December 1988.

The Society will be visiting hotels and restaurants in the area to sing Christmas Carols and raise money for the Society to donate to the Calderdale Scanner Appeal. Anyone who is free on either of these nights will be more than welcome.

Friday, 27th January, 1989 in All Saints Parish Hall.

The Society will be holding a Club Night at which they will present a concert version of "Patience"

Saturday, 25th February, 1989 in All Saints Parish Hall

A concert of miscellaneous items from the Savoy Operas

Saturday, 11th March 1989 - Concert at Carlton United Reformed Church.

Saturday 15th April - Concert at Nunnington Hall, Helmsley.

Friday 28th April in All Saints Parish Hall.

The Society will be holding a Club Night at which they will present a concert version of "The Yeoman of the Guard".

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THE NEXT SHOW AT THE PLAYHOUSE .....

Halifax Thespians will be presenting "The Secret Diary of Adrian Mole aged 13 3/4" by Sue Townsend from 3rd December to 10th December, 1988 at 7.30 pm.