

Halifax Gilbert and Sullivan Society
presents

HOMERS
Pinafore

1 - 5 November

2011

WORDS BY

W.S. GILBERT

MUSIC BY

ARTHUR SULLIVAN



Programme £1.00

FROM THE CHAIRMAN

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to our 2011 production of *HMS Pinafore*, which remains one of the most popular of the Gilbert and Sullivan operas. This Opera was Gilbert and Sullivan's first big success, produced at the Opera Comique in May 1878, where it ran for a total of 700 performances.

We are delighted that Richard Buxton is again both Producer and Musical Director. He has been very well supported by our superb accompanist Phillip Sutcliffe and together they have ensured that our rehearsals have been both enjoyable and productive.

It also gives me great pleasure to welcome two new principal performers into our ranks. Ian Moorhouse (Captain Corcoran) is well known to West Yorkshire audiences, having performed many musical theatre roles in the area, and John Morgan (Carpenter) joins us fresh from his recent role in *Chess* at the Victoria Theatre. New members of the chorus are just as welcome, and we are delighted to say hello to Jessica Patterson and Fintan and Deirdre O'Shea.

Our thanks are extended to you, our audience, who have come to see our show. We may work and rehearse all we like, but without somebody to respond to our efforts and spark off the essential reaction, it would all count for nothing. If you already support us regularly, may you long continue to do so. If you are a new supporter and have enjoyed the show, please consider becoming a member or a patron and taking part in our year-round activities. You can visit our web site at www.halifaxgands.org.uk for further information.

Finally, may I wish you all a very enjoyable evening.

Trevor Roberts

Reg Horner, 1935 – 2011

Reg was a member and supporter of our Society for many years, serving as Business Manager in the 1970s and 1980s, and subsequently being elected a Life Vice-President. He had a deep involvement with the Navy, particularly the Sea Cadets, and would frequently pass comment at shows when naval matters were in question, particularly concerning the appropriateness of uniforms and of facial hair. In his absence, but hoping for approval from above, we would like to dedicate this production to Reg's memory.

The background to the story

HMS Pinafore lies at anchor off Portsmouth, where the members of her crew are enjoying a little rest and recreation. Little Buttercup is on hand as she rows her boat between the various ships with her selection of little comforts for sale – a sort of nautical Avon Lady.

Captain Corcoran, Commander of the Pinafore, is of a kindly disposition and cares for the well-being of his crew. His daughter Josephine is sought in marriage by Sir Joseph Porter KCB, First Lord of the Admiralty, a match which would greatly improve Josephine's social standing, and by reflection the Captain's own. She seems reluctant to take this step, however, and Captain Corcoran's mind is troubled.

Josephine meanwhile harbours a secret passion for Ralph Rackstraw, an Able Seaman aboard the Pinafore, and he has the same feelings for Josephine. Social propriety, however, dictates that neither dare tell the other. Ralph does admit the position to his fellow crew members, who sympathise with his position and wish him good luck, except for Dick Deadeye, a bitter but philosophical character whose views are dictated by strict regard for social demarcation.

Sir Joseph Porter arrives on board, together with his Cousin Hebe and the assembly of "sisters, cousins and aunts" who accompany him wherever he goes. These ladies are already known to the sailors, who have met them when on shore leave. Sir Joseph describes his rise to his present high rank, and in doing so paradoxically seems to suggest that Josephine would be marrying beneath her rank were she to consent. He represents "New Money", though, and possesses egalitarian views up to a point – A British sailor is any man's equal, excepting his.

All the characters have now been introduced, and we follow Ralph's attempt to woo Josephine, Josephine's anguish in deciding between the dictates of her heart and the continuation of her lifestyle, and Sir Joseph's blissful ignorance of everything that's going on.

Meanwhile, Buttercup is dropping mysterious hints to the Captain that first appearances are misleading, and it is her revelation at the end of the opera that resolves everything.

The Characters in the Story

(in order of singing or speaking)

Little Buttercup, a Portsmouth bumboat woman

Penny McGoverin

Bill Bobstay, Boatswain

Trevor Roberts

Dick Deadeye, Able Seaman

Colin Fine

Ralph Rackstraw, Able Seaman

Leon Waksberg

Captain Corcoran, commanding HMS Pinafore

Ian Moorhouse

Josephine (The Captain's daughter)

Anna Trent

Sir Joseph Porter, KCB, First Lord of the Admiralty

Steven Greenwood

Hebe, Sir Joseph's first cousin

Christine Roberts

Bob Becket, Ship's Carpenter

John Morgan



... and this should be his
customary attitude



I copied all the letters
in a big round hand

Sailors on board HMS Pinafore

Harold Galley, Paul Matthews,
Fintan O'Shea, Leyland Smith,
Peter Sugden, Kelvyn Waites,
Tim Widdop

Sir Joseph's "Sisters, Cousins and Aunts"

Stephanie Bolton, Amy Ellison,
Jean Greenwood, Deborah Hammond,
Chris Hanson, Helen Matthews,
Deirdre O'Shea, Jessica Patterson,
Sally Roberts, Marie Sugden



Production team

MUSICAL DIRECTOR and STAGE DIRECTOR Richard Buxton
PRINCIPAL REHEARSAL PIANIST Philip Sutcliffe

**Members of the WEST YORKSHIRE ORCHESTRA,
SQUARE CHAPEL ORCHESTRA and FRIENDS**

STAGE MANAGER
SET PROVIDED BY
LIGHTING
COSTUMES

PROPERTIES
ORCHESTRAL PARTS
TICKET SALES
FRONT OF HOUSE
PUBLICITY
FOYER DISPLAY
PROGRAMME

Andrew Stopford
West Yorkshire Savoyards Appreciation Society
Karl Eaton
Ian Stead Theatrical Costumes and West Yorkshire Savoyards
Nancy Kirby, Christine Noble-Doyle, Yvonne Doyle
James Newby Music
Stephanie Bolton
Kathryn Buxton
Peter Sugden
Kathryn Buxton
Richard Buxton

Acknowledgements

Our thanks to

- Yorkshire Heritage Bus Company, for assistance with publicity
- Queensbury Van Hire, for helping with scenery transport
- Rosemary and Tony Armitage, for valuable assistance with costumes and set
- Ian Bradley's *Annotated Gilbert and Sullivan* and Wikipedia for contributions to programme notes

To anyone who was involved with the productions of *HMS Pinafore* by Norwood Operatic Society in 1983 and Opera Australia in 2005 and who might recognise a couple of ideas, the Director would like to assure them "imitation is the sincerest form of flattery".

Friday, December 9, 2011 at 7.45

Christmas Pot-Pourri

At All Saints Church Hall, Godfrey Road, Skircoat Green
A mixture of songs, recitations and choruses with a seasonal flavour
Come along to listen or to contribute to the entertainment
Details from the Secretary (see the inside pages)

Musical Numbers

Act One

- We sail the ocean blue (Men's Chorus)
- Hail, men o' war's men ... I'm called little Buttercup (Buttercup)
- But tell me, who's the youth (Buttercup, Boatswain)
- The nightingale sighed for the moon's bright ray ... A maiden fair to see (Ralph, Men's Chorus, Buttercup)
- My gallant crew, good morning (Captain, Men's Chorus)
- Sir, you are sad (Buttercup, Captain)
- Sorry her lot who loves too well (Josephine)
- Over the bright blue sea (Ladies' Chorus)
- Sir Joseph's barge is seen (Chorus)
- Now give three cheers ... I am the monarch of the sea (Captain, Chorus, Sir Joseph, Hebe)
- When I was a lad (Sir Joseph, Chorus)
- For I hold that on the seas (Sir Joseph, Hebe, Chorus)
- A British tar is a soaring soul (Ralph, Boatswain, Carpenter, Men's Chorus)
- Refrain, audacious tar (Josephine, Ralph)
- Finale to Act One : Can I survive this overbearing ... Mess mates ahoy ... The maiden treats my suit with scorn ... Shall we submit? Are we but slaves? ... My friends, my leave of life I'm taking ... Oh joy, oh rapture unforeseen ... This very night with bated breath ... Forbear, nor carry out the scheme you've planned ... Let's give three cheers for the sailor's bride

Act Two

- Fair moon, to thee I sing (Captain)
- Things are seldom what they seem (Buttercup, Captain)
- The hours creep on apace (Josephine)
- Never mind the why and wherefore (Captain, Sir Joseph, Josephine)
- Kind captain, I've important information (Deadeye, Captain)
- Carefully on tip-toe stealing (Men's Chorus, Deadeye, Captain, Josephine, Ralph)
- Hold! Pretty daughter of mine ... I, humble, poor and lowly-born (Captain, Men's Chorus, Ralph, Josephine)
- He is an Englishman (Boatswain, Men's Chorus)
- In uttering a reprobation (Captain, Chorus, Deadeye, Sir Joseph, Hebe)

- Farewell, my own (Ralph, Josephine, Sir Joseph, Hebe, Deadeye, Boatswain, Carpenter, Buttercup, Chorus)
- A many years ago (Buttercup, Chorus)
- Finale to Act Two – Oh joy, oh rapture unforeseen ... For he's the Captain of the Pinafore ... For he loves little Buttercup ... I am the monarch of the sea ... For he is an Englishman

Halifax Gilbert and Sullivan Society was formed in 1968, and gave its first public full-dress performance three years later at Halifax Playhouse. The annual production in the late autumn, still at the Playhouse, remains the Society's major public appearance, but we also offer a series of public concerts in the spring, usually between February and April. We are always pleased to perform at new venues in and around Halifax or further afield, and anyone wishing to organise a concert should contact the Secretary (see below).

The Society meets to rehearse on Friday evenings throughout the year at All Saints Church Hall, Godfrey Road, Skircoat Green, Halifax. Three or four of these Friday evenings during the year are given over to informal concerts and Club Nights, where we will sing through a complete Gilbert and Sullivan opera, or perhaps another piece from the same period, with the audience providing the chorus. Members of the public are always welcome to join us (and sing with us, although that's not compulsory!) on these occasions.

If you would like to sing with or support the Society yourself, you are very welcome to turn up at the rehearsal room on a Friday evening (7.45 onwards). Alternatively you may contact the Secretary, Kathryn Buxton, 34 Fir Road, Huddersfield, HD1 4JE (01484-301291). If you don't sing yourself, but can perhaps offer organisational or other practical skills, you will be equally welcome. We look forward to seeing you in the future!

VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT www.halifaxgands.org.uk

THE COMMITTEE

Andrew Stopford (President), Trevor Roberts (Chairman), Sheila Simpson (Vice-Chairman), Kathryn Buxton (Secretary), Richard Buxton (Treasurer), Stephanie Bolton, Colin Fine, Christine Noble-Doyle, Paul Matthews, Peter Sugden, Kelvyn Waites.

Another Gilbertian Captain

The benevolent Captain Corcoran may have his origins in an earlier Captain who appears in the *Bab Ballads*.

Of all the ships upon the blue,
No ship contained a better crew
Than that of worthy CAPTAIN REECE,
Commanding of THE MANTELPIECE.

He was adored by all his men,
For worthy CAPTAIN REECE, R.N.,
Did all that lay within him to
Promote the comfort of his crew.

If ever they were dull or sad,
Their captain danced to them like mad,
Or told, to make the time pass by,
Droll legends of his infancy.

A feather bed had every man,
Warm slippers and hot-water can,
Brown windsor from the captain's store,
A valet, too, to every four.

When he asks his crew what he could do to make their lives even happier, his coxswain suggests that they could all marry the Captain's female relatives. Captain Reece agrees, although they have already been promised to others.

"My daughter, that enchanting girl,
Has just been promised to an Earl,
And all my other family
To peers of various degree.

"But what are dukes and viscounts to
The happiness of all my crew?
The word I gave you I'll fulfil;
It is my duty, and I will."

When Reece reflects that he will now be the only bachelor on board, the boatswain tells him that his widowed mother has long loved him from afar. Captain Reece promptly goes to her and proposes.

"Well, well, the chaplain I will seek,
We'll all be married this day week

At yonder church upon the hill;
It is my duty, and I will!"

The sisters, cousins, aunts, and niece,
And widowed Ma of CAPTAIN REECE,
Attended there as they were bid;
It was their duty, and they did.



Halifax Gilbert and Sullivan Society's previous productions

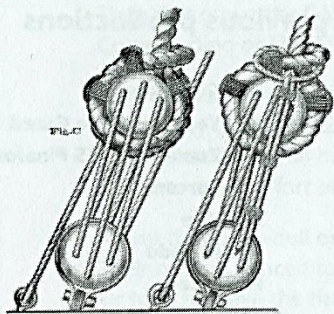
1971	H M S Pinafore	1990	The Gondoliers
1972	Iolanthe	1991	The Yeomen of the Guard
1973	The Sorcerer	1992	The Zoo and H M S Pinafore
1974	The Pirates of Penzance	1993	The Sorcerer
1975	The Gondoliers	1994	Iolanthe
1976	Princess Ida	1995	The Mikado
1977	The Mikado	1996	Patience
1978	Ruddigore	1997	The Pirates of Penzance
1979	The Yeomen of the Guard	1998	The Gondoliers
1980	Patience	1999	Princess Ida
1981	Trial by Jury and H M S Pinafore	2000	The Yeomen of the Guard
1982	The Sorcerer	2001	H M S Pinafore
1983	The Gondoliers	2002	Ruddigore
1984	Iolanthe	2003	The Mikado
1985	The Mikado	2004	Iolanthe
1986	Princess Ida	2005	The Grand Duke
1987	Cox and Box and The Pirates of Penzance	2006	The Zoo, Cox and Box and Trial by Jury
1988	Ruddigore	2007	The Pirates of Penzance
1989	Utopia Limited	2008	The Sorcerer
		2009	The Gondoliers
		2010	The Yeomen of the Guard



But in spite of all temptations
To belong to other nations
He remains an Englishman

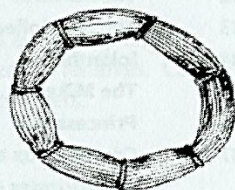
Getting to know the ropes

A Deadeye is a wooden block pierced with holes for a lanyard, used to tighten the shrouds (supporting ropes from the masthead to the ship's sides, to keep the mast steady). Triple-holed deadeyes are used in pairs, one usually surrounded by an iron band attached to the ship's side and the other by a rope attached to the shroud. The



lanyard passes through the holes of the deadeyes to facilitate tightening, similar to a block and tackle. The name deadeye probably derives from the similarity of the three holes to the eyes and nose of a skull. Whether the unfortunate Dick bore such a similarity, or whether he simply came from a family of deadeye-makers, is a matter for speculation.

Captain Corcoran boasts in his introductory song that he can "ship a selvagee". A Selvagee is a strap made up of a number of rope strands or yarns bound together at intervals with more yarn. Wet leather is then sewn round the strap, which shrinks and stretches tightly when dry. These straps are strong and durable, and can be used for blocks or handles for boxes.



One of Gilbert's *Bab Ballads*, *The Mystic Selvagee*, concerns problems with a veteran seaman who can never quite remember whether or not selvagees should be applied to the maintop-stay. Consult the whole poem (available on the *Gilbert and Sullivan Archive* on the internet) to see how Sir Blennerhasset Portico dealt with him.

A proverbial mishmash

Buttercup's encounter with Captain Corcoran early in Act Two ends with her warning him about a change in store, and in the song "Things are seldom what they seem" she specifies several instances where appearances mislead.

Skim milk masquerades as cream

Highlows pass as patent leathers

- *Highlows were ankle-high shoes fastened in front, of lesser quality than patent leather shoes.*

Jackdaws strut in peacock feathers

- *Aesop tells a fable of a jackdaw who collects moulted feathers from peacocks and ties them to himself to impress the other birds. They soon discover the cheat, peck off the feathers and send him packing.*

Black sheep dwell in every fold

All that glitters is not gold

Storks turn out to be but logs

- *In Aesop's fable "The frogs desiring a King" the frogs petition Jupiter to send them a King to rule over them and keep them in order. He sends down a huge log, which the frogs eventually discover to be useless. They angrily ask Jupiter to send him a proper King, so he sends down a stork, which eats them all up.*

Bulls are but inflated frogs

- *A third reference to Aesop, in which an old frog seeks to impress a youngster by trying to make himself as broad as a nearby ox. He puffs and puffs until eventually he bursts.*

Drops the wind and stops the mill

Turbot is ambitious brill

- *Though both are large flat fish, turbot is considered a delicacy while brill is not.*

Gild the farthing if you will

Yet it is a farthing still

The Captain is unable to perceive the heavy hints that Buttercup is dropping, and in his answering verse simply reels off a list of unrelated proverbs. He will finally understand her implications at the end of the opera.

We're Strangers Here

A comedy by Eric Chappell

Directed by Keith Royston

Tuesday 13th December to Saturday 17th December, 7:30 pm

Saturday Matinee - 2:30 pm

The forerunner of the popular ITV sitcom "Duty Free", this Eric "Rising Damp" Chappell comedy follows two couples who are holidaying in Spain. However, instead of the relaxing break they expect, marital infidelities cause all kinds of chaos.



A Halifax Thespians production
Box Office 01422 365998

Coming soon locally :

Haworth West Lane A.O.S.

The Yeomen of the Guard

Haworth West Lane
Baptist Chapel

November 14- 19 at 7.30 p.m.
Saturday matinee at 2.15 p.m.

£8.00. Children £5.00.
Over 60s £6.00 on Monday

Bookings : 01535 643425

Meltham Parish Church G & S

Iolanthe

Church Hall
Meltham

November 22 - 26 at 7.30 p.m.
Saturday matinee at 2.15 p.m.

£9.00. Children £4.00.
Concessions £7.00 Tues, Wed,
Sat Mat.

Bookings : 01484 349037