



NEWSLETTER 50

DECEMBER 2009

Newsletter contributions welcome:
leicsg-s.org.uk leicsg-s@tiscali.co.uk

Extra-ordinary General Meeting

Wednesday, 9th December, 2009

The Society voted to present *HMS Pinafore* in March 2011. *The Gondoliers* had significant backing.

Thank you to all who could stay, after a day's work and an evening's rehearsal.

The Annual General Meeting will be on Wednesday, 19th May, 2010.



Ko-Ko delivers his Christmas presents.

For your new 2010 diary

- Monday, 4 January – Principals re-start.
- Wednesday, 6 January – Chorus re-starts.
- Friday, 8 January** – Music rehearsal, St Philip's.
- Sunday, 7 February, 2–6 – Rehearsal at St Philip's.
- Friday, 26 Feb – Full rehearsal at St Philip's.
- Sunday, 28 Feb, at Little Theatre:
 - 3:30 – technical rehearsal;
 - 5:30 – band call;
 - 7:30 – dress rehearsal.

New

We have much to do, so can we please can we be ready to start at 7:30 on Wednesdays!

Summer concert

Market Harborough
 Saturday, 15 May 2010

Pieces from various operas, especially the last two. Solos by the talented singers we are lucky to have amongst us. Can you sing in the chorus or perform solo? Contributions and ticket indications welcome. (See a committee member.)

Diamond dinner

Wed 17 March

At Freeman's Park Campus of Leicester College (better known to many as Southfields College), where the catering students put on a splendid meal at a bargain price.



Katisha –WSG

Subscriptions

Please pay subs! – by 31st October(!). £50 for most; concessions £35; patrons £20. Contact Glenn behind the piano.

Committee meeting

14th January. If you would like to raise anything, please tell the Secretary or a committee member.

Caption competition

Suggestions by end of January, please, for next newsletter.



Contact us:

Comments & contributions welcome.

For the newsletter:

Rob Mayall 0116 271 1606
leicsg-s@tiscali.co.uk

For the society:

www.leicsg-s.org.uk
initial-enquiries@leicsg-s.org.uk

CHAIRMAN'S LETTER

I was also fortunate to be invited to attend a performance of Saint Thomas More Primary School production "The Mikado" which was in the last newsletter. The production was a special children's arrangement of opera and the enthusiasm of the children showed in their performances on stage. The producer was Patricia Mason (headmistress) and the musical director, Pam Birchall, with Stephen Bruce supplying the words for the 3rd verse of Ko- Ko's "Little List".

I left the performance as in I did after watching their previous production of "The Pirates of Penzance" thinking how fortunate the children and parents to have a headmistress of Patricia Mason calibre. Children have been performing G & S since 1879. The first children's productions of Gilbert and Sullivan opera started with D'Oyly Carte Opera Company in 1879 with "H.M.S Pinafore" (Richard D'Oyly brought Gilbert and Sullivan together and formed a company to perform their works). The inspiration behind the idea for a children's production was Richard Barker, the stage manager for the D'Oyly Carte Opera Company. The suggestion met with the hearty approval of Gilbert, Sullivan and D'Oyly Carte. Francois Cellier who was the musical director for the D'Oyly Carte Opera Company re-orchestrated the score throughout to suit the youthful singers. "H.M.S Pinafore" was performed in the afternoon and ran for 78 performances and was a great success and was revival a year later and a children's "Pirates of Penzance" followed this in 1884. These were the only two operas to re-orchestrated for Children until five years ago when "The Mikado" was adapted for youthful voices.

Opera North have incorporated into their repertoire for the 2009/10 season "Ruddigore". The opera company will be at the Theatre Royal, Nottingham week commencing 8th March 2010 and "Ruddigore" will be performed on the Wednesday evening only.

Alan Freckingham

Ruddigore

for those who can't get enough G&S

Shepshed

Christchurch G&S Society is performing the same week as our *Mikado* – which explains the absence of several valuable voices. G&S addicts can see the show in Hind Leys College, Shepshed.

See: www.whatnever.co.uk

Nottingham

New production by Opera North

John Wilson already has an enviable reputation as a conductor, arranger and orchestrator, with a special flair for light music. With direction by Jo Davies; sets and costumes by distinguished designer Richard Hudson.

From their website: operanorth.co.uk
Theatre Royal, Nottingham,

Toffee in moderation is a capital thing...

Who remembers the original (and best) Jacob's Mikado biscuit? Those of us that do probably remember eating rather too many at children's birthday parties through the 70s, where they provided a staple source of sticky pink marshmallow and jam. You could never quite tell if it was coconut you could taste, but then who cared; it was just the sugar hit you wanted anyway..

SLTG 12/09



Aladdin

Braunstone & Wycliffe Operatic Society –

Y Theatre

Don't imagine that children aren't on stage any more. A lively bunch of singers and dancers of all ages presented *Aladdin* last week with pezzazz and gusto. And pizzas and pesto after the matinee.

Can you spot the G&S soprano? (It's not the duck.)

First rehearsals of 2010: Mon 4 Jan (principals) or Wed 6 Jan (chorus). Meanwhile,

Have a very merry Christmas!