

Stratford upon Avon Gilbert & Sullivan Society

Newsletter Winter 2010

(otherwise known as)

The Alas Dick Chronicle

“The publication that stretches the barriers”

Company News

Although the AGM was some time ago, I thought I would remind you of the members of your committee.

Chairperson	Sheila Price
Vice Chairperson	Belinda Smith
Secretary	Margaret Cox
Treasurer	Tom Cox
Minute Secretary	Alyn Maxwell
Social Secretary	Sue McFaul
Librarian and Bear Pit Representative	David Derrington
Member without Portfolio	Raymond Simpson Smith
Member without Portfolio	Paul Tomlinson

Ruddigore

The snows have now mostly abated, although, as I write this, the garden has gone white again, and we are able to get into rehearsals and these progress well. We are delighted to have put together a very strong principal cast for the show as follows:

Rose Maybud (A village maiden)	Amy Cate Walsh
Mad Margaret (A mad woman)	Vivien Tomlinson
Dame Hannah (Rose's Aunt)	Belinda Smith
Robin Oak apple (A farmer)	Andrew Rawle
Sir Despard Murgatroyd (A bad baronet)	Paul Tomlinson
Sir Roderic Murgatroyd (A ghost)	John Keifert
Dick Dauntless (Robin's foster brother)	Tim Lockley
Old Adam (Robin's faithful servant)	To be confirmed
Zorah (A professional bridesmaid)	Suzie Grumball
Ruth (-do-)	Charlotte Rose

As well a welcoming a number of new members to our principal and chorus cast

list, we are also delighted to have Stage Director, Musical Director and Choreographer in the persons of Amanda Laidler, Andrew Holtom and Anne Chivers respectively joining us for the first time. Others in the stage team include: Nic Walsh, returning to us to design the lighting and David Derrington, currently Assistant Stage Director and Stage Manager.

Whilst we are delighted with the whole cast and team, we desperately and seriously need more chorus members and even more particularly MEN. Ruddigore is a fun show, very tongue in cheek and, more usefully, doesn't require the chorus to all be 17 years old! There is a splendid chorus in Act II where the men appear as ghosts and so age is no barrier. If you or anyone you know would like to come along and join us, we would be delighted and everyone would receive a very warm welcome. Contact for any prospective member: Bel Smith on beljsmith@btinternet.com or 01608 682844 or 07779 135842 or just come to a rehearsal on Wednesday nights at St Andrews, Shottery. 7.30pm

Please help us to get this show on the road.

The Bear Pit

For those of you not aware of the Bear Pit, this is an organisation formed a couple of years ago to act as an umbrella organisation for all the artistic groups and societies in and around Stratford. The G & S is a member and contributor to the Bear Pit.

The Bear Pit was established with the following objectives: -

- To bring together and work collaboratively with as many artistic groups in Stratford as possible for the purpose of mutual support, fund raising and the promotion of each other's work.
- To lobby to provide affordable working space for amateurs and other artistic groups in Stratford.
- To form a working relationship with appropriate funding bodies to improve facilities and resources available to amateur and other artistic groups in Stratford.
- To unite the artistic groups with the purpose of working with various organisations and businesses to ensure a permanent home for the arts in Stratford.

In order to function, the group needs to raise funds, and one of the events for this year is to be the forthcoming Showcase weekend on Friday - Sunday 12th - 14th March at the Civic Hall. This repeat of last years highly successful event allows societies to take part with the purpose of publicising the group's activities and forthcoming productions or exhibitions.

The G & S will be taking part in the grand performance on the Saturday night

when each group has a 10 minute slot to entertain a paying audience, and we shall be doing some excerpts from Ruddigore.
We also intend to run a rehearsal workshop in the afternoon for further publicity.

The programme for the evenings of the weekend is:

Friday night is a revue in the best tradition of British comedy - a tour of Python, Atkinson and the two Ronnies, by way of the Cambridge footlights puts it in a rather large nutshell. It has a suitably zany musical (and other) accompaniment supplied by the Stratford Concert Band.

Saturday night is the 'Best Bits' from 'Stratford's finest' performing arts societies.

Sunday night in calmer mood, the Stratford Symphony Orchestra will be playing pieces from favourite composers such as Brahms, Dvořák and Sibelius.

CIVIC HALL BOX OFFICE

01789 207100

Social

This year, the Christmas Dinner will be held at Easter to greet the arrival of Spring! The dinner will be held at Le Bistrot Pierre, adjacent to the Swan's Nest Hotel on Friday 9th April 2010. This is a new venue for us and a brief look at the website promises a great evening, the cost of a three course meal being in region of £20 plus drinks. If you are interested in joining us, please contact Sue McFaul on 01608 662945

Dates For Your Diary

Rogues and Vagabonds

Friday 26th & Saturday 27 February, 7.30 pm

Banish the Blues

Civic Hall

Stratford-upon-Avon

Items in the programme include excerpts from Les Misérables, Seven Brides for Seven Brothers, A Chorus Line, Rock Around the Clock, Tim Spencer's Rising Sun, Carousel, Pirates of the Caribbean and Cabaret, to name but a few.

Friday night's performance will be given in support of The Teenage Cancer Trust's appeal to raise £100,000 for a new Teenage Cancer Trust unit. The appeal is part of a £1m fundraising scheme to build the unit which will care for young people at Birmingham Children's Hospital.

Rudolf Kempe Society
Sunday 28 February 4.00 pm

Poetry is Life

58 Waterside

Stratford-upon-Avon

RSC & NT actors reading their favourite poetry with love songs by Dvorak

Bear Pit Showcase Weekend

Friday to Sunday 12 - 14 March

Civic Hall

Second Thoughts

Wednesday to Saturday 24 - 27 March 7.30

Betrayal by Harold Pinter

Civic Hall MarketSpace

Stratford G & S

Wednesday - Saturday 19 - 22 May 7.30 (plus Saturday Matinee)

RUDDIGORE

Civic Hall Box Office

01789 207100

This is the first recent Newsletter about the Society and, I hope, the first of many. My intention is to do the next one in the Spring. I would very much welcome any input of news, articles, event notices etc. that anyone feels might be of interest for the next edition. If you know of anyone who is not on the email list and who would be interested, please let me know as well.

The name of this publication "The Alas Dick Chronicle" is a reference to a line in Ruddigore and not necessarily intended as a permanent name. Any suggestion for another name would be most welcome.

All information and comments to davidderrington@btinternet.com

Acknowledgement: Many thanks to Pam Hickson for allowing me to copy information from and about The Bear Pit.

Happy Days

David Derrington

Editor