

G&S Festival NEWS



13th Festival dates: Saturday July 29th to Sunday August 20th

January 2006

JAPANESE WILL BRING NEW MEANING TO 'MIYA SAMA'

If you had told me at any time during the history of our Festival that we would welcome a Japanese company in Buxton, singing "The Mikado" in Japanese, I would have said – "You're crazy!" Well, I'm crazy, and it is going to happen this year! And I have seen the video – and you will love it! Mark your diary now. Tuesday August 1st – the Tokyo Theatre Group in "The Mikado".

And that is just one of many fantastic highlights of Festival No. 13.



The Actors' Theatre New York has been specially convened to bring "Trial By Jury", "Cox and Box", and "The Zoo" to Buxton on Monday August 14th. You will have seen many of the performers at previous Festivals – particularly from last years' fantastic production of "Grand Duke" from The Blue Hill Troupe. They are sure to make that another "night to remember".

And a warm return welcome is assured for the Fraser Valley Group who will be

flying 6,000 miles from Canada and bringing a production of "Princess Ida". It might sound preposterous – but if we could get a group from South America next year, we will have had performers from all five continents!

As you can see, Opera Della Luna return; our own Gilbert and Sullivan Opera Company will be busier than ever with three brand new full scale productions.

And many of your favourite groups are back – Derby, South Anglia, Savoynet,

continued on pg. 2

PRIORITY BOOKING SCHEDULE

Don't miss the Priority Booking schedule of tickets for this year's festival.

To qualify for the first draw that will take place on Friday February 24th, you must be a member of the International Gilbert and Sullivan Association. If you have not already joined and wish to be included, please complete and return the relevant section on the back page.

People in that draw enjoy first choice of seats and a discount on seat prices.

There are two "members only" draws. The first on Friday February 24th and the second two weeks later on Monday March 6th.

Non-members are also encouraged to complete and return their booking forms to Halifax prior to tickets going on general sale from the Opera House.

These bookings also go into a draw which will be made on Thursday March 9th. All late bookings can be received in Halifax, through to and including Friday March 31st. Remaining tickets will go on sale from the Buxton Opera House from Monday April 3rd.

Southampton, Trent, Bournemouth, Nene and The Nomads – who will open the Festival on July 29th.

That's a particularly special performance because it links with the World Record Attempt that we want hundreds of enthusiasts to join. We are going to "perform" all 13 operas non-stop in under 29 hours on a magical journey to some of the outstanding tourist attractions in the magnificent Derbyshire Peak District. You can sing in one show – you can sing in all 13. All we want is for you to be sponsored and for you to hand your money over to a massive Youth Initiative which should culminate in the announcement of a stand alone Youth Festival in Buxton in 2007; and a wide range of materials to make Gilbert and Sullivan more easily accessible to schools across the country.

As you can see from this newsletter, our programme is 97.5% complete.

If you are a member of the International Gilbert and Sullivan Association I am sure you will want to hit the Priority Booking and get the best seats in the house for the performances of your choice. If you are not a member – I am sure you will probably want to join. You can. Complete the form on the back page.

Indeed, I would urge all readers to examine that registration form and send it back to Halifax completed appropriately.

Volunteers wanted

We are looking for volunteers to sing in principal parts in the World Record Attempt; sing in the seven Pot Luck performances that will be presented in the Festival Club; join the three Festival Productions – Youth, Young Artistes and Festival Production itself; and join our new Festival Musical Director, Christine Nicklin in her Friday morning music sessions.

If you have been to Buxton before – you know all about it. It's a fun Festival. A friendly Festival.

We can jest you, jibe you, quip you, crank you, wrack you, riddle you, from hour to hour and from day to day – beginning July 29th right the way through to, and including, August 20th.

We are looking forward to seeing hundreds of Priority Booking Forms flooding through the letterbox here at the Vicarage in what should certainly be a record breaking 13th Festival.

DON'T MISS . . .

Thursday 3rd August 2.30pm

'Happy Wanderings of a Savoyard: A Memoir of Leonora Braham'

Leonora Braham created many of the soprano roles for Gilbert and Sullivan in the 1880's and 1890's. Although her character was featured in the Mike Leigh film 'Topsy Turvy' as a troublesome, alcoholic dependent performer, very little is really known about her personal life. This afternoon Rachel Harland will trace the life and career of this enigmatic and often overlooked pioneer. Rachel has been a strong supporter of the Festival appearing initially in Festival Productions and more recently as a member of our G & S Opera Company.



Rachel Harland

Sunday 6th August 2.30pm

'In the Dusk with the Light Behind Her'

We're delighted to welcome to this year's fringe one of G & S Opera Company's outstanding personalities, Miss Jill Pert accompanied by Miss Hilary Morgan on the piano.

Jill is an original D'Oyly Carte star who has delighted audiences around the world with her characterizations.

The entertainment in two halves, is a cross between "This Is Your Life",

"These You Have Loved" and "Desert Island Discs" and will include performances of Schubert, Bernstein and some English songs – humorous and otherwise, interspersed with chat and anecdotes from one of the country's leading exponents of professional Gilbert and Sullivan.



Jill Pert

Wednesday 9th August 2.30pm

'Up in the Air, Sky High, Sky High: Sopranos of the Savoy'

American coloratura soprano Elise Curran will be making her Buxton debut portraying her compatriot Ellen Beach Yaw, the famous stratospheric soprano "Lark Ellen" who created the role of Rose-in-Bloom at the Savoy Theatre in 1899. This program will feature Clive Woods at the piano.

In the context of the opening night performance of Sullivan's "The Rose of Persia" at the Savoy, Miss Yaw reminisces about the sopranos who preceded her in the D'Oyly Carte Opera Company and their careers. The lively narrative will be interspersed with many of the popular soprano solos of the G&S canon, as well as some well-known opera arias that these ladies were particularly associated with. In addition to nationality, Miss Curran shares with Miss Yaw her extraordinary high vocal range and flexibility.

Run, don't walk, to the Paxton Theatre, fasten your seat belts, and get ready for takeoff!

Young Artistes to perform Iolanthe

If you are aged between 18 and 30 you are invited to apply to join the Young Artistes group who will perform Iolanthe on Sunday 13th August. Rehearsals will commence the week before and anyone wishing to apply to be in the production (either as a principal or chorister) should complete and return the questionnaire on the back page as soon as possible. Principal applications need to include video/DVD footage of a recent performance, unless they are known to the Festival Organisers.



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FESTIVAL HIGHLIGHTS

EIGHT RECORDS, ONE BOOK AND A LUXURY – IT'S GOT TO BE DISCS ON A DESERT ISLAND!

One of the longest running and most treasured programmes on BBC Radio is Desert Island Discs. In a simple, but unique, concept devised by the late Roy Plomley a guest is asked to select the eight pieces of music they would choose to have with them if marooned on a desert island. They are also allowed one book (apart from the Bible and Shakespeare) and a luxury (but not a grand piano because it could be used as a shelter.)

The choice of music and the chat in between records has led to some immensely revealing interviews – so we are borrowing the idea, with all due acknowledgements, for this year's Fringe.

Our guest desert islanders include:-

July 30th, **Thomas Round.**

31st, **Michael Rayner.**

August 1st, **Donald Maxwell,
Bruce Graham.**

5th, **Thomas Round (repeat),
Valerie Masterson.**



Ian Smith



Neil Smith

August 15th, **Stephen Shipley,
Ian Bradley.**

16th, **David Turner.**

17th, **Alistair Donkin.**

They will reveal their selections in conversation with Ian and Neil Smith in the Paxton Theatre.

It will be interesting to see if our guests undergo the agony suffered by many BBC "islanders" in whittling down their favourite music to just a selection of eight pieces. The choice of books and luxuries may also cast some new light onto festival people we have come to know so well, or thought we did !

Don't miss these fun and interesting interviews. And if you think choosing eight records is easy just try it yourself, because it isn't!

G&S Opera Company



Andrew Nicklin

As reported in the last edition, we can confirm that our very own Opera Company will be performing three new shows for us this season. Starting on August 4th and 5th they will perform 'Yeomen of the Guard' directed by Andrew Nicklin followed by, Pirates of Penzance on August 11th and 12th and finally HMS Pinafore on the 18th and 19th August (both directed by Alan Spencer).

Principals already confirmed include Simon Butteriss; Charlotte Page; Oliver White; Bruce Graham, Anthea Kempston and Donald Maxwell.

And John Owen Edwards will conduct all three shows.



Charlotte Page



Alan Spencer



Simon Butteriss



Anthea Kempston



John Owen-Edwards



Bruce Graham



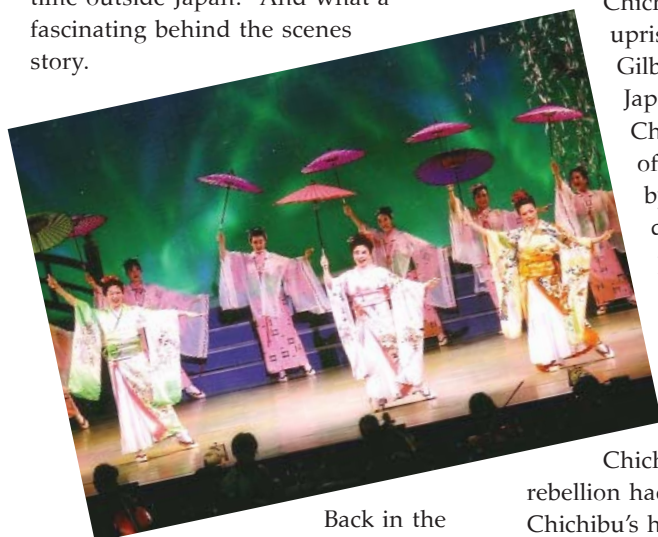
Oliver White

The Mikado in the Town of Chichibu

Drumbeats reverberate through Chichibu, a town deep in the mountains about 50 miles northwest of Tokyo, on the evening of December 3rd every year. To the fast beating of the drums, the so-called Chichibu yatai-bayashi, young men parade down the main street, pulling elaborately carved candle-lit floats in a time-honoured festival dedicated to their guardian deity, the god of Mt.Buko.

On March 10th, 2001, young men beat the drums for a new event in Chichibu's history, a performance of The Mikado or, The Town of Titipu. A town enfolded in steep mountains seems an unlikely venue for the famous opera. However, some local boasters claim Chichibu is Gilbert & Sullivan's "Titipu".

On Tuesday August 1st 2006 the drums will beat in Buxton Opera House welcoming the professional Tokyo Theatre production of "The Mikado" – in Japanese, performing for the first time outside Japan. And what a fascinating behind the scenes story.



Back in the 19th Century, the Opera's satirical characters and exoticism offended the Japanese who were struggling to emerge from feudalism. The Mikado character especially rankled as he seemed to be a send-up of the revered Meiji Emperor.

In 1885 the Emele Melville Opera and Comedy Company included The Mikado in the program for its two-week season in Kobe, but was persuaded by the British consul to withdraw the opera. Two years later English Opera Bouffe Company were only allowed to perform the Opera under a new title "Three Little Maids from School" and with deletion of the subtitle and every reference to the emperor.

Performances were cancelled in

London during Prince Fushimi's visit with King Edward VII in 1907.

Japanese Opera lovers regretted its obscurity in Japan. Ei Rokusuke, a popular essayist was convinced that Chichibu, site of a peasant uprising in 1884, inspired Gilbert to set the opera in Japan. In the so called Chichibu Incident, thousands of silk farmers impoverished by the Government's deflationary policy rose in protest.

Over the years volunteers formed a group to investigate the mystery of the Titipu-Chichibu link and concluded that

Chichibu silk rather than the rebellion had in fact inspired Gilbert. Chichibu's high quality raw silk was an important export in the 19th Century and would almost certainly have been featured in the "Japanese Village" Theme Park in Knightsbridge, which supposedly prompted Gilbert to develop the Japanese theme.

Following the death of Emperor Hirohito in 1988, a new age of Kokusaika or Internationalisation was felt even in the remotest corners of the country. Old barriers in many aspects of Japanese life crumbled under institutional deregulation. When Princess Chichibu passed away in 1995, the heir-less House of Prince Chichibu terminated.



Meantime, Mayor Uchida was developing a proposal to underwrite a performance of The Mikado in Chichibu. By now the citizens were well informed of the joy and significance of this opera and in March 2000 he presented his proposal to the Municipal Assembly that The Mikado should be presented as the main event to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the incorporation of Chichibu as a city. The assembly accepted the proposal.

The Mikado proved a huge success. Skilful translation of Gilbert's intricate English incorporated local jokes and regional dialect.

What a great honour and thrill that Sakakibara Toru, a veteran in musical production in Japan, who directed and conducted the 2001 performance, will now bring his all professional Tokyo Theatre Group to Buxton this year.

I have seen the video, you will love it. The artistes, the ballet dancers, the original Japanese costumes, the lighting... don't miss it.



We are also delighted that the group will present a concert on Sunday afternoon, July 30th. You can see a short extract from their performance on the G & S Festival website.

Join Our World Record Attempt

Here's a challenge to every Gilbert and Sullivan Society in Britain – and beyond. Come and join us as we attempt to smash a 15 year old record. We are going to perform all 13 operas – with libretti – in 13 different locations in under 29 hours.

Anyone can join us. Groups of singers or individuals. You can sing for the entire 29 hours, or simply join in one or two of the performances which will take you on a fantastic tour of the Peak District. We are currently finalising venues for the performances and we hope to include many of the well-known tourist spots in the area:- Haddon Hall; Chatsworth House; Wedgwood; The National Tramway Museum; Solomon's Temple; Alton Towers.

We are examining the possibility of performing on a barge; in a supermarket; and in a landmark pub. Perhaps we will do Pirates of Penzance in the Swimming Pool, early in a morning, to waken everyone up.

Supporting Youth

This world record attempt will hopefully prove to be the biggest fundraiser that Gilbert and Sullivan will ever have experienced.

We really want hundreds of singers to be sponsored by sisters, cousins,

aunts, workmates and even employers. The idea is that everyone sponsors you for a minimum of £1 for each performance in which you participate. Sing in all 13 and you collect at least £13.

Our target is to collect £25,000 to go towards our National Gilbert and Sullivan Youth Initiative. It is a fantastic project which, if successful, will result in a stand alone Gilbert and Sullivan Youth Festival in 2007, which hopefully will be supported by Heritage and Lottery Funding. And in addition, we will have a whole range of programmes and activities suitable to go immediately into schools.

The World Record Attempt will leave Buxton at approximately 7.00pm on Friday evening July 28th. People who have registered will be transported by double-decker buses around the entire journey. Others may join individually, with their own transport. You can register now by completing the appropriate section of the questionnaire on the back page. You can also volunteer now to sing any of the principal parts from any of the shows. We anticipate that Grand Duke and Utopia will be sung on board the double-decker buses themselves as we travel round the itinerary.

And of course we finish the entire journey in the Buxton Opera House with a fully costumed performance of "Ruddigore" followed by the final sing of the record attempt in the Festival Club. Come along and make this the most memorable start to all of the festival's to date and 29 hours you'll tell your grandchildren about.

We already have two amateur societies who have indicated that their members want to join the fun. I can promise you it is fun. I organised the existing record which raised masses of money for the world famous Pető Institute in Hungary. With your help, we can do the same for the future of G & S here in the UK.



Chatsworth House



National Tramway Museum



Haddon Hall



Solomon's Temple

LET THE BELLS RING OUT

There will be a new sound at this year's festival – the clear, unique and harmonious sound of bells.

The music will be provided by the handbell ringers of Holy Trinity Church, Sheffield, who will be giving a concert in the Paxton Theatre on Monday, August 7th at 2.30.

Members of the audience will also have the opportunity to try this highly skilled art for themselves with guidance from the experts.

We refuse to make dreadful puns about tickets going like the clappers, but do make sure you are there for this superb demonstration and performance.



YEOMEN ON PARADE FOR FESTIVAL PRODUCTION

This year for the first time in 13 years, The Yeomen of the Guard will be the opera featured in the Festival Production.

With Alistair Donkin directing and Christine Nicklin as musical director, the production is sure to once again prove a major festival highlight.

The festival Yeomen will take to the Opera House stage on Wednesday, August 16th. Chorus auditions will be held in Buxton on Wednesday, August 9th, followed by a week of intense rehearsal for the whole cast.



Alistair Donkin

As is usual with the Festival Production, principal roles will be cast in advance. If you would like to be



Christine Nicklin

considered, but have not performed at the festival before, please send us a video/DVD of a recent performance by no later than April 30. If you have performed with us in the past please let us know which roles you would be interested in. You can complete your application on the back page questionnaire.

WELCOME BACK TO DAVID TURNER AS ADJUDICATOR

One of the most familiar and respected faces at the festival is that of David Turner and it is with the greatest pleasure that we welcome him back as Festival Adjudicator – his ninth “tour of duty.”

Anyone who heard his careful and constructive critiques last year will understand exactly why David enjoys a reputation as one of the country's most accomplished adjudicators. They will also have gained a new insight into many aspects of performance and production which will enhance their future enjoyment.



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PRIORITY BOOKING FORM

for the 13th International Gilbert & Sullivan Festival

Buxton, Derbyshire, July 29th – August 20th 2006



DATE	TIME	EVENT	VENUE	TICKETS	NUMBER	TOTAL
JULY						
Sat 29th	10.00am	Youth Festival Production Auditions	Paxton	Free		
	All Day	World Record attempt – around the Peak District	various	sponsored		
	7.30pm	Ruddigore, The Nomads	<i>book your tickets on the Opera House booking form</i>			
	From 10pm	Final World Record sing 'The Sorcerer' (Festival Club)	Pavilion Gardens	£3		
Sun 30th	10.30am	Desert Island Discs: Thomas Round	Paxton	£5		
	2.30pm	HMS Pinafore, Opera Della Luna	<i>book your tickets on the Opera House booking form</i>			
	3.00pm	Tokyo Theatre – In Concert	Paxton	£7.50		
	7.30pm	HMS Pinafore, Opera Della Luna	<i>book your tickets on the Opera House booking form</i>			
	From 10pm	Festival Club and Pot Luck - Princess Ida	Pavilion Gardens	£3		
Mon 31st	10.30am	Desert Island Discs: Michael Rayner	Paxton	£5		
	2.30pm	Clive Wood's - An Accompanist's Lot!	Paxton	£5		
	7.30pm	The Pirates of Penzance, Bournemouth G & S Society	<i>book your tickets on the Opera House booking form</i>			
	From 10pm	Festival Club and Cabaret	Pavilion Gardens	£3		
AUGUST						
Tue 1st	10.30am	Desert Island Discs: Donald Maxwell	Paxton	£5		
	2.30pm	Desert Island Discs: Bruce Graham	Paxton	£5		
	7.30pm	The Mikado - Tokyo Theatre Japan (Performed in Japanese)	<i>book your tickets on the Opera House booking form</i>			
	From 10pm	Festival Club and Cabaret	Pavilion Gardens	£3		
Wed 2nd	10.30am	Helen Lever discusses her school production of Pirates of Penzance	Paxton	Free		
	2.30pm	Young Ambassadors and the Youth Initiative with Ian Smith	Paxton	Free		
	7.30pm	Iolanthe, Peak Opera	<i>book your tickets on the Opera House booking form</i>			
	From 10pm	Festival Club and Cabaret	Pavilion Gardens	£3		
Thu 3rd	10.30am	Basic G & S Stagecraft with David Duffey	Paxton	Free		
	2.30pm	'Happy Wanderings of a Savoyard' A memoir of Leonora Braham	Paxton	£5		
	7.30pm	The Grand Duke, Southampton Operatic Society	<i>book your tickets on the Opera House booking form</i>			
	From 10pm	Festival Club and Cabaret	Pavilion Gardens	£3		
Fri 4th	10.30am	Festival Choir Rehearsal with Christine Nicklin	Paxton	£3		
	2.30pm	Ian Smith – 12 Festivals, 12 Highlights Revisited	Paxton	£5		
	7.30pm	The Yeomen of the Guard, The G & S Opera Company	<i>book your tickets on the Opera House booking form</i>			
	8.00pm	In Concert – Festival Staff and Friends	Paxton	£5		
	From 10pm	Festival Club and Pot Luck - Patience	Pavilion Gardens	£3		
Sat 5th	10.30am	Desert Island Discs: Thomas Round	Paxton	£5		
	2.30pm	The Yeomen of the Guard, The G & S Opera Company	<i>book your tickets on the Opera House booking form</i>			
	3.00pm	Desert Island Discs: Valerie Masterson	Paxton	£5		
	7.30pm	The Yeomen of the Guard, The G & S Opera Company	<i>book your tickets on the Opera House booking form</i>			
	7.30pm	"The G & S Story" – Film	Paxton	£3		
	From 10pm	Festival Club and Pot Luck - Trial by Jury and Cox and Box	Pavilion Gardens	£3		
Sun 6th	11.00am	The International G & S Association AGM (Members Only)	Paxton	Free		
	2.30pm	'In the dusk with the light behind them!' - Jill Pert and Hilary Morgan	Paxton	£7.50		
	7.30pm	The Mikado, Nene Opera	<i>book your tickets on the Opera House booking form</i>			
	From 10pm	Festival Club and Cabaret	Pavilion Gardens	£3		

DATE	TIME	EVENT	VENUE	TICKETS	NUMBER	TOTAL
AUGUST						
Mon 7th	10.30am	Singing from the Bandstand	Bandstand	Free		
	2.30pm	Ring Forth Ye Bells' - Holy Trinity Hand Bell Ringers (Sheffield)	Paxton	£5		
	7.30pm	The Sorcerer, Youth Production	<i>book your tickets on the Opera House booking form</i>			
	From 10pm	Festival Club and Cabaret	Pavilion Gardens	£3		
Tue 8th	10.30am	Andrew Crowther and Brian Jones (W S Gilbert Day)	Paxton	£5		
	2.30pm	Switzerland meets England: a musical programme of rare Sullivan and traditional Swiss songs.	Paxton	£5		
	7.30pm	Ruddygore, The SavoyNet	<i>book your tickets on the Opera House booking form</i>			
	From 10pm	Festival Club and Cabaret	Pavilion Gardens	£3		
Wed 9th	10.30am	SavoyNet – What is it?	Paxton	Free		
	10.30 am	Festival Production Auditions	Trinity Church	Free		
	2.30pm	“Elise Curran: Up in the Air, Sky High, Sky High - Sopranos of the Savoy”	Paxton	£5		
	7.30pm	Patience, Trent Opera	<i>book your tickets on the Opera House booking form</i>			
	From 10pm	Festival Club and Cabaret	Pavilion Gardens	£3		
Thu 10th	10.30am	Jeremy Stevenson 'Songs of Famous Savoyards - Part 6'	Paxton	£5		
	2.30pm	Stephen Turnbull entertains – “Songs from the attic”	Paxton	£5		
	7.30pm	The Gondoliers, South Anglia Savoy Players	<i>book your tickets on the Opera House booking form</i>			
	From 10pm	Festival Club and Cabaret	Pavilion Gardens	£3		
Fri 11th	10.30 am	Festival Choir Rehearsal with Christine Nicklin	Paxton	£3		
	2.30pm	The Young Ambassadors in Concert	Paxton	£5		
	7.30pm	The Pirates of Penzance, The G & S Opera Company	<i>book your tickets on the Opera House booking form</i>			
	8.00pm	Flanders and Swan – Andrew Nicklin and Simon Theobald	Paxton	£5		
	From 10pm	Festival Club and Pot Luck - Utopia	Pavilion Gardens	£3		
Sat 12th	10.30am	Memorabilia Fair	Octagon Foyer	Free		
	10.30am	“Ian Bradley: In this College, Useful Knowledge”	Paxton	£5		
	2.30pm	The Pirates of Penzance, The G & S Opera Company	<i>book your tickets on the Opera House booking form</i>			
	3pm	The Mikado' performed by Charles Court Opera	Paxton	£7.50		
	7.30pm	The Pirates of Penzance, The G & S Opera Company	<i>book your tickets on the Opera House booking form</i>			
	8pm	The Mikado' performed by Charles Court Opera	Paxton	£7.50		
Sun 13th	From 10pm	Festival Club and Cabaret	Pavilion Gardens	£3		
	11am	G & S Church Service	St John's Church	Free		
	2.30pm	'Merrie England' by Northampton G & S Society (with orchestra)	Paxton	£7.50		
	7.30pm	Iolanthe, The Young Artistes	<i>book your tickets on the Opera House booking form</i>			
Mon 14th	From 10pm	Festival Club and Cabaret	Pavilion Gardens	£3		
	10.30am	Basic G & S Stagecraft with David Duffey	Paxton	Free		
	2.30pm	Film 'Grossmith, G and S' with Simon Butteriss (incl Q & A)	Paxton	£5		
	7.30pm	Trial by Jury/Cox and Box and The Zoo, Actors Theatre, New York	<i>book your tickets on the Opera House booking form</i>			
Tue 15th	From 10pm	Festival Club and Cabaret	Pavilion Gardens	£3		
	10.30am	Desert Island Discs: Stephen Shipley	Paxton	£5		
	2.30pm	Desert Island Discs: Ian Bradley	Paxton	£5		
	7.30pm	Princess Ida, Fraser Valley, Canada	<i>book your tickets on the Opera House booking form</i>			
Wed 16th	From 10pm	Festival Club and Cabaret	Pavilion Gardens	£3		
	10.30am	Desert Island Discs: David Turner (Festival Adjudicator)	Paxton	£5		
	2.30pm	Haddon Hall's Dorothy Vernon: The story of a legend – David Trutt	Paxton	£5		
	7.30pm	The Yeomen of the Guard, Festival Production	<i>book your tickets on the Opera House booking form</i>			
	From 10pm	Festival Club and Cabaret	Pavilion Gardens	£3		

DATE	TIME	EVENT	VENUE	TICKETS	NUMBER	TOTAL
AUGUST						
Thur 17th	10.30am	Desert Island Discs: Alistair Donkin	Paxton	£5		
	2.30pm	Manchester G & S present 'The Fascinating story behind Iolanthe'	Paxton	£5		
	7.30pm	The Pirates of Penzance, Derby G & S Company	<i>book your tickets on the Opera House booking form</i>			
	From 10pm	Festival Club and Cabaret	Pavilion Gardens	£3		
Fri 18th	10.30am	Festival Choir Rehearsal with Christine Nicklin	Paxton	£3		
	2.30pm	Despard & Margaret's 'Ruddiparty' an afternoon of fun and games	Paxton	£5		
	7.30pm	HMS Pinafore, The G & S Opera Company	<i>book your tickets on the Opera House booking form</i>			
	8.00pm	In Concert: Ian Smith & Friends	Paxton	£5		
	From 10pm	Festival Club and Pot Luck - Gondoliers	Pavilion Gardens	£3		
Sat 19th	10.30am	A Potted History of G & S For All - with Thomas Round	Paxton	£7.50		
	2.30pm	HMS Pinafore, The G & S Opera Company	<i>book your tickets on the Opera House booking form</i>			
	3pm	<i>To finalise</i>				
	7.30pm	HMS Pinafore, The G & S Opera Company	<i>book your tickets on the Opera House booking form</i>			
	7.30pm	<i>To finalise</i>				
	From 10pm	Festival Club and Pot Luck - Iolanthe	Pavilion Gardens	£3		
Sun 20th	12 noon	Gala Luncheon and Awards Ceremony	<i>To finalise</i>	£25		
				TOTAL COST OF FRINGE BOOKINGS		

BOOK YOUR OPERA HOUSE TICKETS ON THE NEXT PAGE



THE PALACE HOTEL

BUXTON

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Priority Booking for Buxton Opera House Performances

EVENING PERFORMANCES 7.30pm ◆ MATINÉE PERFORMANCES 2.30pm		Dress Circle & Mid Stalls £16.00 ● £22.00	Upper Circle, Front & Rear Stalls £14.50 ● £19.50	Restricted Upper Circle & Gallery £9.00 ● £10.00	Platinum Pass £300.00 Tick 19 Shows	Gold Pass £230.00 Tick 14 Shows	Silver Pass £120.00 Tick 7 Shows	TOTAL
● Denotes professional performance								
JULY								
Sat 29	Ruddigore The Nomads							
Sun 30	HMS Pinafore Opera Della Luna ●◆							
	HMS Pinafore Opera Della Luna ●							
Mon 31	The Pirates of Penzance Bournemouth G&S Society							
AUGUST								
Tue 1	The Mikado Tokyo Theatre (performed in Japanese) ●							
Wed 2	Iolanthe Peak Opera							
Thu 3	The Grand Duke Southampton Operatic Society							
Fri 4	The Yeomen of the Guard G&S Opera Company ●							
Sat 5	The Yeomen of the Guard G&S Opera Company ●◆							
	The Yeomen of the Guard G&S Opera Company ●							
Sun 6	The Mikado Nene Opera							
Mon 7	The Sorcerer Youth Production							
Tue 8	Ruddigore The SavoyNet							
Wed 9	Patience Trent Opera							
Thu 10	The Gondoliers South Anglia Savoy Players							
Fri 11	The Pirates of Penzance G&S Opera Company ●							
Sat 12	The Pirates of Penzance G&S Opera Company ●◆							
	The Pirates of Penzance G&S Opera Company ●							
Sun 13	Iolanthe The Young Artistes							
Mon 14	Trial by Jury/Cox & Box/The Zoo Actors Theatre New York							
Tue 15	Princess Ida Fraser Valley, Canada							
Wed 16	The Yeomen of the Guard Festival Production							
Thu 17	The Pirates of Penzance Derby G&S Company							
Fri 18	HMS Pinafore G&S Opera Company ●							
Sat 19	HMS Pinafore G&S Opera Company ●◆							
	HMS Pinafore G&S Opera Company ●							

Please note – this programme is subject to possible alteration

G&S ASSOCIATION MEMBER DISCOUNTS. (In addition to concessions listed below)

Single members save 50p per show in Opera House;

Double supporting members 50p x 2 per show in Opera House. Family members 50p per ticket (up to 5) per show in Opera House.

Platinum, Gold and Silver theatre passes have already been discounted. There are no discounts on the Fringe Events.

THESE SPECIAL MEMBER OFFERS ARE ONLY VALID ON BOOKINGS RECEIVED PRIOR TO MARCH 6th.

OTHER CONCESSIONS: Senior Citizens, Registered Disabled/Carers, JSA Cardholders, Children/Students: £2 off Front & Rear Stall seats only. **GROUPS.** We have special discounts. Ring 01422 323252 for details

THEATRE TICKETS	£
LESS MEMBER DISCOUNT / CONCESS.	£()
FRINGE TICKETS	£
TOTAL	£
PLUS CREDIT CARD if applicable 3%	£
GRAND TOTAL	£

Title Mr/Mrs/Ms.....First Name.....Last Name.....

Address

Postcode..... Association Membership No.

Tel: Email

FOR ALL BOOKINGS up to 4th April

☐ I enclose a cheque in the sum of £..... made payable to Gilbert & Sullivan Festivals Ltd.

After 4th April

☐ I enclose a cheque in the sum of £.....made payable to High Peak Theatre Trust

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Tel: 01422 323252
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After 2nd April 2006 return to:

G&S Festival Box Office
Buxton Opera House,
Water Street,
Buxton, Derbyshire SK17 6XN
Tel: 01298 72190
(10am to 6pm, Mon - Sat)

LEPTON'S PIRATICAL PUPILS CLIMB ABOARD FOR FUN WITH GILBERT & SULLIVAN

It's anchors aweigh and hoist all sail for the 100+ pupils at Lepton J, I and N Church of England Primary School, near Huddersfield, as they embark on staging their own full production of that Gilbert & Sullivan classic *The Pirates of Penzance*.

The project will form part of the pupils' course work and will lead to a fully costumed production in the world famous Huddersfield Town Hall on March 15.



It's the brainchild of deputy head teacher Helen Lever, herself a G&S performer and former award winner in Buxton. The initiative is being sponsored by the International Gilbert & Sullivan Association who will provide the expert tuition in musical theatre and adult performers for some of the principal roles, including Festival Secretary, Neil Smith who will play the Major General.

"G&S is a great way to get children interested in music and theatre," said Helen. "It has colour, humour and strong melodies. And pupils who might not want to perform are able to contribute in the other vital areas such as costumes, scenery, publicity and front of house."

Once a week members of the G&S Festival team are visiting the school to teach, first, the musical side of the show and then the staging of it. Organiser Neil Smith said: "We are delighted to be working with the school because we know from our annual Youth Production, how much fun youngsters derive from G&S. This

will be an exciting project with the target of a full scale show in the Town Hall as super encouragement for everyone."

The children are not only being taught about the on stage requirements and music but also about costumes, props, scenery etc. There's even a competition

to find the best design for the programme. The elements that have been introduced are proving extremely popular amongst the 115 + children and at the same time are helping them towards their key stage course work in the classroom.

If you would like to come and see the show (**tickets at £7 MUST be purchased from the festival office in advance**). You can order your tickets on the back page of this Newsletter.

Additionally, if you would like to hear how this was put together – and how you might be able to do something similar in your school – Helen Lever, the deputy Head, Lepton J & I School, will be in Buxton talking in the fringe programme on Wednesday 2nd August. It's free to attend and should be of particular interest to other teachers or higher educationalists.

Mike Shimell, Kirklees school improvement officer, commented: "Pupils who experience this innovative and exciting project will have met our expectation for 'Excellence and Enjoyment' in the primary curriculum."

Further information:

Neil Smith,
Gilbert & Sullivan Festival,
01422 323252
neil@gs-festival.co.uk



RECOGNITION



Ian and Neil with Paul Horrocks, editor of the MEN – and their award

"It's a day when we prove that Manchester is up there with all the capital cities in the world when it comes to the best theatre" said Manchester Evening News Editor, Paul Horrocks.

The event was fittingly rounded off by Ian and Neil Smith accepting the Horniman Award in recognition of their outstanding contribution to theatre.

The citation for this highly

prestigious award read as follows:-

"Just over 12 years ago, two remarkable Yorkshire men looking rather like Little and Large, asked the Manager of Buxton Opera House if she would let them try a festival of Gilbert and Sullivan there in the middle of the summer holiday. With sheer enthusiasm and an un-airing sense of what their audiences wanted, the two Smiths – father and son – made the idea work, and it has been getting bigger ever since. Today the International Gilbert and Sullivan Festival fills Frank Matcham's Theatre for most of August, and creates a professional company for it each year. The Horniman Award marks the special contribution to the world of theatre and this year's recipients are Ian and Neil Smith."

The only confusion of the afternoon was which one was "Little" and which one was "Large"!

Festival Organisers, Ian and Neil Smith joined leading lights of the entertainment world in December for the 24th Annual Manchester Evening News Theatre Awards.

The glitzy ceremony toasted the wealth of theatrical talent in the region. Actor David Fleeshman spoke of the prestige of the event when he said that receiving an M.E.N. Theatre Award was a BAFTA, an Olivier and an Oscar rolled into one.

The awards mark the culmination of months of hard work and achievement from tiny fringe events to international shows and even stage versions of TV hits like "Little Britain" and "The League of Gentleman".

Letters

WE ARE LOOKING FOR . . .

"We have been coming to Buxton for the last 10 years and have enjoyed every minute . . .

Last year at the Festival Club we met a very nice couple who were in Buxton for 4 nights. We met on the 8th, 9th, 10th August. I think they lived near London and had a dog which they brought with them to the hotel. The gentleman enjoyed the game of Sudoku. They said they would like to come up in 2006 when the Bakewell Show was on. This was my thought too – providing of course that it coincided with shows that we liked. It would be so nice to meet them again. Could you put this in your next newsletter and perhaps start a column for people looking for each other. They will remember us. My husband Bruce is deaf. We live in Fairlight near Hastings.

With thanks.

Annie Humphries".

So if you, whoever you are, would like to contact us in Halifax, we will be delighted to put you in touch with Annie and Bruce.

G&S Travel Club

NEW YORK SUCCESS

"First event – a success." That was the verdict on the G&S Travel Club's four day visit to New York in December.

Led by Neil Smith, the International party combined all the must-see sights and experiences of the Big Apple with plenty of G&S. This included a walking singing tour around famous New York City landmarks (Lincoln Centre; Central Park and the Time Warner building); pot luck performances of Pirates and Iolanthe and a concert in central Manhattan featuring a choir of nearly 80 voices.

Many took advantage of New York's fabulous shopping to make an early start on their Christmas lists. The services of a dedicated shopping guide made sure that no bargains were missed.

Neil said: "The feedback from our first Travel Club event has been so positive

that I am already planning another American visit for early November. This will either be back in New York or perhaps Philadelphia, a historic and beautiful city with many happy memories for those involved with the festival.



We will leave slightly earlier this year on Thursday November 9th for 4 nights, returning overnight on Monday 13th November and the cost including flights will be around £600.

If you would like to receive more details about this trip please register your interest on the back page questionnaire or by writing to Neil Smith at the festival headquarters in Halifax or by email neil@gs-festival.co.uk

We haven't forgotten the proposed Brazil adventure to Manaus. Spring 2007 is the likely date

Charles Court Opera to present 'The Mikado' Saturday 12th August

Gilbert and Sullivan's most famous and best-loved operetta, *The Mikado*, featuring a cast of eight young professional singers with distinguished baritone Peter Knapp (Glyndebourne, ENO, Welsh Opera, BBC, and recently appearing with the newly formed Opera UK company) in the title role.

Following the company's successful run at London's Rosemary Branch Theatre, Islington, in November/December, the production is to be revived in May, alternated with CCO's new production, *HMS Pinafore*, at The Rosemary Branch. This is followed by a tour to the open air Woodland theatre at Woodhouse Copse, Surrey, where they will also be performing Mozart's *The Magic Flute* in July 2006, before bringing *The Mikado* to Buxton.

For Director, John Savournin, a well-known face at the Gilbert and Sullivan



John Savournin

festival, this is his first production of *The Mikado*, conducted by rising MD/Pianist, David Eaton with the Eaton-Young Piano Duo, who perform their own four-hand arrangement of the orchestral score in this production.

Charles Court Opera is a new company, first piloted by John Savournin at Trinity College of Music, working with some of the leading young professionals: singers, directors, musical directors and designers. They promote an inclusive and open-minded approach to opera, involving artists from a variety of performance backgrounds. They work often with the Eaton-Young piano duo, who arrange the orchestral scores, allowing performances in intimate and accessible venues.

ALL SINGING, ALL DANCING WEBSITE

Have you seen our new website?

www.gs-festival.co.uk

Dramatically re-designed, it now allows you to actually listen to G&S while you browse the many different sections. Quite apart from offering a lot more information and being easier to navigate, we think the new site is fun and much more in tune with today's expectations. You can also buy on-line from our wide range of G&S Musical Collectables.

Please have a look and let us know what else you would like to see on there.

TOURIST INFORMATION

Looking for more information about Buxton or the Peak District? Or a good hotel or guest house within easy reach of the Opera House?

For the latter we always recommend our advertisers and would ask you to contact them first to check availability.

For more general information and lots of helpful hints about how to make the most of your visit to the Peak District National Park, please contact the Tourist

Information Centre in Buxton on 01298 25106 or visit these websites:

www.visitpeakdistrict.com and www.highpeak.gov.uk.

Northampton G & S

Following their successful concert version of 'The Rose of Persia' in the Paxton Theatre last year, we're delighted to welcome back Northampton G & S who, this year, will be giving us a concert version of 'Merrie England'.

Complete with their own orchestra, I'm sure this will be a wonderful opportunity to enjoy what sadly has become a rarely performed piece.



Festival Club Piano

Any musicians amongst you will be delighted to know that we've bought a new Yamaha P90 digital piano for the festival club! We've the G & S Association to thank for this and I'm sure that any and everyone who is asked to sing in the club this year will appreciate it. Having spent so much time moving pianos around from one room to the next it was important to choose a replacement that was easily manoeuvrable. This one certainly is. Unfortunately, the amp that goes with it needs four strapping fellows to lift it!!

The Nomads need a Cast

Would you like to join the Nomads and perform in "Ruddigore" – the opening performance in this year's International Festival. It's a very special performance because it will be the penultimate "sing" of the World Record which we are attacking. You can read all about that record on page 5.

We are looking for a full cast – principals and chorus. Ideally choristers should come from the North of England – or be prepared to travel! There will be a full weekend of music rehearsals toward the end of June and floor rehearsals will also be held starting Friday evening, June 30th and including all day Saturdays and Sundays through to the performance. These will be in the Bradford/Halifax/Wakefield area.

So far as principals are concerned, we will be delighted to welcome applications from around the country. Early principal rehearsals will be held in locations closest to the majority of participants. It will obviously be necessary to travel North for the full weekends to work with the chorus.

This will be the first show of the 13th Festival and we want it to be a cracker! We expect a lot of media interest in the World Record Attempt and the fact that one performance will take place in the Opera House should be particularly appealing to radio, TV and the press.

If you have performed in Buxton previously, please let us have details. If you are new to the Nomads and Buxton, please send us a video clip of a recent performance. Ideally we would like to cast Ruddigore by the end of March this year.

It will be fun!

BRING YOUR GROUP TO BUXTON

Regular attenders to the Festival will see that we still do have seats available on most nights. It would be great to have "SOLD OUT" notices in front of the theatre even before the Festival opened. Why don't you consider inviting your own special "group" to Buxton? Certainly the number of coach parties is increasing. Forum Groups. Church Groups. Probus Clubs. Womens Institutes. We would just be delighted to see you. For party bookings you get one seat free for every 15 booked.

Morris Minors, G&S and The Lord Mayor's Show



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Web Site: www.buxtonvictorian.co.uk

I am grateful to Robert Redwood from Lichfield who is a member of both the Morris Minor Owners Club and The International Gilbert and Sullivan Association. He forwarded an article which appeared in this months Morris Minor Owners Club Journal.

The article began:-

"The headline in the London Evening Standard Newspaper described the Lord Mayor's Show as 'The biggest show in London', saying that it would bring a cold November day to life with its flamboyance, fun and fireworks. 'There will be a menagerie of animals, including horses, dogs and a camel and 180 vehicles including 16 Morris Minors, each decked out in the style of a Gilbert and Sullivan Operetta."

The theme of the show had been chosen by the Lord Mayor and it was – "links". The Morris Minors Owners Club selected G & S as they knew that the new Lord Mayor had been brought up on a diet of the music when his mother sang with The D'Oyly Carte Opera Company. We have written to invite the Lord Mayor to join us in Buxton!

DARE WE SAY IT AGAIN?

No-one can say we don't try! To date we have been singularly unsuccessful. However, wouldn't it be great to have a number of "sponsors" for this year's festival? In the hope that we can attract some of you, we are introducing a very special "sponsorship package" You can now sponsor any one single performance for only £2,500.

And in return for your support, we will give you a full colour page advertisement in the Souvenir Programme; ten dress circle tickets for the show you have sponsored; your company banner advertisement in front of the Opera House during the day of the performance; and of course acknowledgement from the stage.

Sponsors!

Is anyone listening? This offer includes sponsorship of our own professional Gilbert and Sullivan Opera Company. Sponsors will be accepted on a first come, first served basis.

Ring Ian or Neil Smith on 01422 323252 to book your performance!

Welcome Back Pamela

We're delighted to welcome back Pamela Leighton Bilik as our Director of Education. Pamela will once again direct the Youth Production when they perform *The Sorcerer* on Monday 7th August.

Auditions and rehearsals commence at 10am in the Paxton Theatre on Saturday July 29th with the

cast being announced after lunch the same day. There are daily rehearsals through to the performance itself on the 7th. New Festival Musical Director, Christine Nicklin will be assisting Pamela as her MD.

Due to tighter Health and Safety controls it has now become necessary to restrict the number of children who can participate in this production and preference will be given to those who have a knowledge of both words and music.



Pamela
Leighton-Bilik

Can you help?

For obvious reasons, we need to have accredited, police checked chaperones. If there are any chaperones (with the appropriate licenses) who could help on the night of the performance we'd be very pleased to hear from you.

Duplicated collection of G & S LPs, videos and CDs all as new. **£5.00 each**

Tel 01652 654716

"GROSSMITH, GILBERT AND SULLIVAN"

WRITTEN AND PRESENTED BY SIMON BUTTERISS

PRODUCED AND DIRECTED BY TONY BRITTEN

George Grossmith was Gilbert and Sullivan's original "patterman". An entertainer rather than a singer, he became a major star and crucial influence on the comedic elements of the Savoy operas, from *"The Sorcerer"* through to *"The Yeomen of the Guard"*. After twelve years with the company he left, feeling increasingly irritated and frustrated by Gilbert and went on to find fame and a much increased fortune with his one man show and humorous column, written with his brother Weedon which became the bestselling book *"The Diary of a Nobody"*. Yet during his time with the D'Oyly Carte company he did more than any other performer to define the unique wit and musical charm that is the reason for the continued popularity of G&S worldwide.



Simon Butteriss

Simon Butteriss has become the modern equivalent of George Grossmith. In performances of the patter roles all over the world with the D'Oyly Carte, Carl Rosa Opera Company and our own professional company, he has delighted literally hundreds of thousands of people. National critics have referred to him as a "comic genius" and "the leading comic baritone of his generation".

Simon has written "G,G&S" as an appraisal of George Grossmith's relationship with Gilbert and Sullivan. The film is a Grossmith like "one man show" in which Simon the narrator takes us on a

fascinating journey where he becomes not only Grossmith the man, but all his comic characters. The songs, the humour and the history combine in a dazzling tour de force which redefines the musical documentary genre.

Shot in London, at many of the places that Gilbert and Sullivan worked from, such as the Savoy Hotel and Theatre, the film's principal location is the exquisite Normansfield Theatre in Teddington. This building has only just reopened after an extensive period of restoration and is now the finest example of a working Victorian theatre in the British Isles.



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REGISTRATION FORM

Please complete and return to: **Gilbert and Sullivan Festivals, The Old Vicarage, All Souls Road, Halifax, HX3 6DR**

1) World Record

a) I/we want to take part. Send full information.

b) I/we want to take part in the **Nomad's "Ruddigore"**

As chorus (voice): Principal (role):

2) I/we want to audition for the Youth Production "The Sorcerer"

Name: Age: Chorus (voice): Principal (role):

3) I/we want to audition for the Young Artistes Production "Iolanthe"

Name: Age: Chorus (voice): Principal (role):

4) I/we want to audition for the Festival Production "Yeomen"

Name: Age: Chorus (voice): Principal (role):

I/we have performed previously with: Group:..... Show: Role:.....

5) Pot Luck Shows

I/we know the roles and would like to sing the following parts in:

July 29th (World Record) - Sorcerer July 30th – Princess Ida

August 4th – Patience August 5th – Trial by Jury & Cox and Box.....

August 11th – Utopia August 18th – Gondoliers

August 19th – Iolanthe

Please send details of the **G & S Travel Club**. We are interested in – USA trip Nov '06 ☐ Manaus Brazil Spring '07 ☐

Lepton's Pirates

Please send tickets (£7.00 each) for this production on March 15th (Cheque enclosed payable to the International Gilbert and Sullivan Association)

Sponsor

We would like to **sponsor** the following performance:

Cabaret We would like to offer the following **cabaret spots** this year: Date(s): Content:

Association

We want to join the **G & S Association** and enjoy priority booking as:

Supporting (individual) £25 ☐ Supporting (couple) £40 ☐ Supporting (family) £50 ☐

Contributing Member £50 (min) ☐ Benefactor £100 (min) ☐

Festival Partner £250 (min) ☐ Directors Circle £400 (min) ☐ Life Member £750 (min) ☐

Title Mr/Mrs/Ms.....First Name.....Last Name.....

Address

Postcode..... **Association Membership No.**.....

Tel: Day..... Evening

I enclose a cheque in the sum of £..... made payable to International Gilbert & Sullivan Association.

Credit Card payments We are happy to accept payment by Credit Cards as detailed below.

Please debit my Switch / Maestro

Mastercard / Visa (delete)

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 (Please write the last 3 numbers printed on the reverse of your card)

Expiry date..... Issue No. (Switch/Maestro) Signature..... Date.....

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