

• if you have secretly been nursing a desire to strut your stuff upon the stage – now is the time!

For every one who feels inclined, some part we undertake to find....

Singing rehearsals for The Gondoliers have now begun and will continue on Tuesday evenings until December. A schedule for the Floor rehearsals after Christmas is on page 2 (and can also be found on our web-site). We have engaged a strong cast which is as follows:

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|------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| <i>The Duke of Plaza-Toro -</i> | <i>Bobbie Greatorex</i> |
| <i>Luiz -</i> | <i>Gordon Fawcett</i> |
| <i>Don Alhambra del Bolero -</i> | <i>Martin Whitaker</i> |
| <i>Marco Palmieri -</i> | <i>Anthony Farrimond</i> |
| <i>Giuseppe Palmieri -</i> | <i>David Parker</i> |
| <i>Antonio -</i> | <i>Dan Senior</i> |
| <i>Francesco -</i> | <i>TBA</i> |
| <i>Giorgio -</i> | <i>Richard Briggs</i> |
| <i>Annibale -</i> | <i>Ernie Lowe</i> |
| <i>The Duchess of Plaza-Toro -</i> | <i>Valerie Green</i> |
| <i>Casilda -</i> | <i>Liz Blount</i> |
| <i>Gianetta -</i> | <i>Catherine Nuttall</i> |
| <i>Tessa -</i> | <i>Jane Fawcett</i> |
| <i>Fiametta -</i> | <i>Suzanne Parker</i> |
| <i>Vittoria -</i> | <i>Amy Cooper</i> |
| <i>Giulia -</i> | <i>Liz Zserdicky</i> |
| <i>Inez -</i> | <i>Margaret Charlesworth</i> |

Individual Highlights:

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Such a large cast of characters inevitably draws numbers away from our chorus line and hence the headline for this piece! We do indeed undertake to find a place in our chorus for everyone who feels inclined to join us. So, if you have secretly been nursing a desire to strut your stuff upon the stage – now is the time! We would, of course, prefer it if you can sing in tune but not necessarily loudly. How will you know unless you try? We are particularly anxious to recruit male participants, either bass or tenor (or in-between)! Go on – have a go! If you don't feel inclined yourself, do you know anyone who might be persuaded? If so encourage them to come and try out a rehearsal or two. We're a friendly lot and would be glad to welcome you.



Dates for your diary

Friday 6th November

Cheese and Wine social evening at Richard & Nadine Briggs house Regent House, 18 Carr Lane Sandal WF2 6HJ - £5.00 Tickets available at rehearsals but please feel free to just turn up and pay on the door! Richard & Nadine put a lot of effort into making this an enjoyable event so let's give them our support!

Thursday 3rd December

Short charity concert 5.00 – 5.30 New College Library Pontefract in aid of Pontefract Hospital Volunteers. Details on the website later.

Tuesday 15th December

Christmas Social at Wakefield Sports Club, College Grove. It's a rehearsal night so you should be free to come along and join your fellow members for an evening of festive fun!

Monday 21st December – Charity Carol Singing

6:30 pm at Morrison's Supermarket, Dewsbury Road in aid of Wakefield Hospice. Please put your name on the list on the notice-board if you can spare even half an hour for this worthy cause.

8th January – New Year Dinner

7.00 for 7.30 pm at The Three Houses, Sandal as per last year. Those who attended last year will know how good the food is and if there are enough of us to fill the small room then we can generate a great ambience! Please let Margaret Charlesworth know if you want to book places.

Friday 12th February – Quiz evening

at Tony and Beryl Johnson's house. Those who attended the Mama Mia night earlier this year will know how enjoyable Tony & Beryl's hospitality can be! Join a quiz team – even if you only get one answer right you'll still have fun!

17th – 20th March – The Gondoliers!

Wednesday 17th – Friday 19th: 7.30pm Saturday 20th: 2.00 pm and 7.00pm



Vice-Presidents & Patrons needed

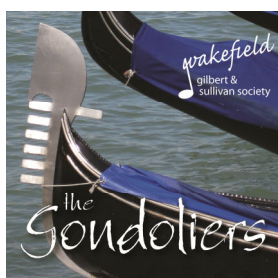
Do you know anyone who might be prepared to become a Vice-President or Patron of the society? It's a very good deal, providing Vice-Presidents with 4 seats and interval drinks for only £60, while Patrons get 2 seats also with interval drinks for only £30. VPs and Patrons also get priority booking, copies of our newsletters and are always welcome to attend our social events. Why do we want people to sign up to these deals? Well it's a kind of loyalty affiliation (a bit like a Boots card in a way), that gives us some slight cash flow advantages but also a degree of certainty that there will be a loyal audience. A long list of Patrons & VPs in the show programme establishes that we are in good health as a society and may encourage others!

Come on folks – do your bit! If you have friends that come to most of our shows they might well benefit from becoming Patrons or VPs so why not give them a nudge in the right direction? If you don't like to approach them yourselves you could pass their names and addresses to Jennie Grove (our patrons' secretary) who will be happy to write to them on our behalf.

Society Book

No we're not running a book on who can bring in the most patrons! This is a proper book we're talking about. However, its success or failure as an idea depends on **YOU!** That means members, ex-members, friends, patrons, VPs, stage crew, etc. etc.

All we want from you is a recollection of past experience(s) associated with the society's activities – shows, parties, etc. etc. – humorous or serious they're just as valuable. Jay Whittam has volunteered to edit them into a viable work for publication. You can submit them anonymously if you wish. The best way would be to write them down, but if that is too onerous then simply buttonhole him at a rehearsal or other event and tell him your story. You could also e-mail him at jaytw@fsmail.net. Amy Cooper is also prepared to accept any contributions, if that makes it easier for you. Go on – force yourself!



Summer concerts

Since our last show, the society has performed three concerts. We would like to thank all those who took part especially Jen Whittam who was persuaded to take the baton for all three – and a very good job she made of it!

First of all we performed on 20th June at Walton. For the first time, as far as we know, the society performed a mixed programme; of G&S together with items from other shows or even not from a show at all! There were a number of meetings to agree a programme that Jen felt comfortable with and, to save rehearsal time, we asked performers to volunteer a solo, duet, or trio that they were familiar with. The resulting programme was very well received by the audience. The piano was a trifle down in pitch but all the performers coped very well, helped by Norman Walker's sympathetic accompaniment. After the concert, many of us descended on Margaret Charlesworth's house for some well earned refreshment – thank you Margaret.

Next we performed a similar concert at West Bretton Church. The programme was "tweaked" a little to reflect the increased number of soloists available and to extend the time to fit the Church's request for an extended performance. Again, the feedback was extremely good and was enjoyed by both performers and audience alike. Thanks must go to Oliver Longstaff, who stepped in as accompanist in Norman's absence, travelling from North Yorkshire to help us out. We are indeed fortunate to have two such talented pianists associated with the society.

Finally, on 15th October, we performed at South Milford Women's Institute. Once again there were minor adjustments to the programme for the same reason as above, but also to try to inject a little more humour into the proceedings. However, the humour was enhanced by two of our number, (who shall remain nameless), arriving well into the opening set having travelled via a "scenic" route! Again we had a change of accompanist and this time it was Neil Aspland who tickled the ivories with very little rehearsal. Feedback to date has been equally good as for the earlier performances.

Concerts such as these rarely cover the rehearsal costs, but they do keep our members together and involved through the summer, and they usually generate a large number of ticket sales for our next show as well as enhancing our reputation in the area. Next season we will need to put together a new programme and we will try to learn from the comments those involved have made. For example, we will try to introduce more lighthearted chorus pieces. But enough of the past! It's time to focus on *The Gondoliers*! We have a high standard to live up to – you're only as good as your last performance they say. Our last performance was very very good – **let's make the Gondoliers even better!**

