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OF THE
GUARD**

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1979**

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Musical Director:
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President's Message

We bid you welcome to the "Yeomen of the Guard," one of Gilbert and Sullivan's most popular operas, last performed by the W.A.O.S. in 1970.

It seems strange to be writing in the autumn. We are very much hoping you will approve of the new venture of presenting an opera in the autumn instead of the Annual Concert. We know that the concert was very popular and that some will regret the decision to discontinue it, but sadly the support was not such that it was financially possible in these difficult times to keep it going.

We hope you will enjoy the evening with us and persuade as many as possible to come and help to fill the Guildhall for each performance.

RONALD GIBSON

HONORARY LIFE MEMBERS

Since our last production four members who have served the Society well have been elected to honorary life membership. Between them they have totalled 103 years as acting members and no less than 55 years of service on the Committee.

MARGARET ELTON joined in 1934 and was an active member of the Chorus until 1962, with 13 of those years as a Committee Member. For many years she was Social Secretary, and on her "retirement" in 1962 continued for a further eight years helping with the refreshments.

IRENE HAYNE, who joined us two years after Margaret, also played in the Chorus for 28 years. For 15 years up to 1969 she served on the Committee and for many years was responsible for publicity.

RAY HUTCHINS first came to us after the war in 1947 and sang in the tenor line of the Chorus for 26 years. During this time he spent 10 years on the Committee, several of them also doing the job of Publicity Manager.

DICK TROWER is a comparative newcomer and did not appear on the W.A.O.S. scene until 1958. Since that time he has regularly appeared on stage either in a principal role or in the Chorus. With 17 years of committee work behind him he is currently one of our two joint Honorary Secretaries.

More statistics cannot express the debt of gratitude we owe to these stalwarts of the Society for the time and energy they have expended on our behalf.

OBITUARY

The Society deeply regrets the loss of MERVYN HAYNE who first became a member in 1934. During his long association he took many principal roles, served on the Committee for thirty years and was Chairman in 1952/3 and again in 1961/2.

Mervyn was a loyal and enthusiastic member and an Honorary Life Membership was conferred on him in 1976.

He will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

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THE SOCIETY gratefully acknowledges the support given each year by our Patrons.

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Please send your name and postal address to the Patron's Secretary: RICHARD CHISNELL, 108 Christchurch Road, Winchester. You will be sent full details of our 1980 programme in February/March, at which time your £6 donation will be requested.



RICHARD STEEL
Leonard Meryll



JOHN JEFKINS
1st Yeoman



JOHN ROBINSON
2nd Yeoman



DAVID EDWARDS
Colonel Fairfax



CHRISTINE TARGETT
Elsie Maynard



PETER STEGGALL
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Dame Carruthers



RICHARD CHISNELL
Jack Point



CAROLE MILES-KINGSTON
Phoebe Meryll



JOHN GOUGH
Sergeant Meryll



MARGARET BAITS
Kate



PAUL DONOHOE
Sir Richard Cholmondeley



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THE YEOMEN OF THE GUARD

OR THE MERRYMAN AND HIS MAID

SYNOPSIS

ACT I

Colonel Fairfax is being held prisoner in the Tower under sentence of death. Sergeant Meryll and his family believe that he is there under false charges and so plan and effect his escape. But before the escape plan is put into operation Fairfax secretly marries the blind-folded Elsie Maynard, a strolling player betrothed to Jack Point. This marriage will allow her, rather than Fairfax's accuser, to inherit Fairfax's estates. All is prepared for the execution, but when the escape is discovered, the Tower is a scene of confusion.

ACT 2

The distressed Elsie takes up residence with the Merylls. She is looked after by Dame Carruthers who finds out about her marriage to Fairfax. Elsie has, in the meantime, fallen for Fairfax, believing him to be Meryll's son, Leonard. Jack Point and Wilfred, the head jailer, claim to have shot Fairfax while he was escaping. Point then attempts to win Elsie back but is out-manoeuvred by Fairfax. Phoebe Meryll had hoped to marry Fairfax and, in a state of distress, blurts out the escape plan to Wilfred. His silence is bought by her betrothal to him. Sergeant Meryll is trapped by Dame Carruthers in the same way. A reprieve for Fairfax arrives and so he abandons his disguise and claims Elsie as his wife. She is overcome with joy until the heartbroken Jack Point collapses and dies at her feet.

ABOUT THE OPERA

"The Yeomen of the Guard" is the nearest Gilbert and Sullivan ever came to writing grand opera, and is fully worthy of the term "tragedy." The chorus is integrated completely into the drama and never provides a merely unmeaning refrain for a soloist's song. There is a strong unity in the music which combines the tragic themes in the story to produce an opera which begs for a serious and human interpretation.

Our production has turned itself inevitably, we feel, to the central tragedy of "The Merryman and his Maid." We must consider not only the untimely death of Jack Point, but also the lasting effect it will have on Elsie, at whose feet he dies heartbroken. Phoebe, likewise, with her natural vitality and intelligence, could not conceivably achieve any happiness with the coarse and insensible brute she has been tricked into marrying. Indeed, it is perhaps only Sergeant Meryll and Dame Carruthers who have before them the prospect of any happiness, since they must have foreseen the inevitability of their marriage, even if they chose to ignore it at first.

"It is just what I want. Jack Point should die and the end of the opera should be a tragedy."

W. S. Gilbert

ACT I - TOWER GREEN. Date: 16th Century

15 MINUTE INTERVAL

ACT 2 - THE SAME, TWO DAYS LATER

DRAMATIS PERSONAE

Sir Richard Cholmondeley (<i>Lieutenant of the Tower</i>)	PAUL DONOHOE
Colonel Fairfax (<i>under sentence of death</i>)	DAVID EDWARDS
Sergeant Meryll (<i>of the Yeomen of the Guard</i>)	JOHN GOUGH
Leonard Meryll (<i>his Son</i>)	RICHARD STEEL
Jack Point (<i>a Strolling Jester</i>)	RICHARD CHISNELL
Wilfred Shadbolt (<i>Head Jailer and Assistant Tormenter</i>)	PETER STEGGALL
The Headsman	NEVILLE GRENYER
Priest	FRED CORTON
First Yeoman	JOHN JEFKINS
Second Yeoman	JOHN ROBINSON
First Citizen	MIKE WILLIAMS
Second Citizen	TED CONNOLLY
Elsie Maynard (<i>a Strolling Singer</i>)	CHRISTINE TARGETT
Phoebe Meryll (<i>Sergeant Meryll's Daughter</i>)	CAROLE MILES-KINGSTON
Dame Carruthers (<i>Housekeeper to the Tower</i>)	KATHLEEN O'FARRELL
Kate (<i>her Niece</i>)	MARGARET BAITS

CHORUS OF YEOMEN OF THE GUARD

RON BAVERSTOCK	JOCK KILLICK	COLIN PAICE
BRIAN BULLOCK	GERARD LONGWORTH-KRAFFT	ALLAN PARR
JIM HOBSON	COLIN MORRISON	DAVID SHELTON
BRIAN HURST		RICHARD TROWER

CHORUS OF CITIZENS AND GENTLEMEN

DEBORAH BARKER	JANET DUNN	ANNE QUICK
BARBARA BARNETT	DOROTHY EMERY	MARGARET SCHOFIELD
DOROTHY BAXTER	NANCY EVANS	CHRISTINE SHOOBRIDGE
BRIDGETTE BELL	MARGARET FIELDS	JOYCE SMITH
CLAIRE BOLTON	LORNA GOUGH	HELEN SOWTON
MARGARET BONE	STELLA HOLT	LORNA SPRAGUE
CHRISTINE BROOKS	IRENE JOHNSTON	SHEILA STILING
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	MARJORY MONRO	
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ELIZABETH GILLINGS
KENNETH HOBBS
JOYCE McLEOD
HARRY MEREDITH
JOSEPH MILLS

2nd Violins:

MARY BARTER
GAVIN HULBERT
JOAN MEADOWS
JANET WITCHER

Violas:

ELSPETH COOPER
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PETER DARBYSHIRE

Double Bass:

STEPHANIE BANYARD

Flute:

ANNE COGGAN

Oboe:

IRENE PRAGNELL

Clarinet:

ROY HARWOOD

Bassoon:

CHRISTOPHER HEWITT

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BRAM TAYLOR
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Trumpets:

STANLEY PAYNE

Percussion:

DAVID HUGHES

PRODUCTION TEAM

STAGE MANAGER	Monica Forester
Assistant Stage Manager	Clive Richardson
Stage Assistants	Laurie George, David Hooker, Robert Jowitt, Eddie Marsh, Colin Paris
Lighting Manager	David Harding
Lighting Assistants	Simon Brunner-Randall, Paul Stocks, John Brooks, Peter Coleman, Graham Hill
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Properties	Carol Rigby, Janet Read
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Set Construction	David Hooker, Eddie Marsh
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We congratulate W.A.O.S. on their latest production and trust we may continue to record their progress in the future

HAMPSHIRE CHRONICLE

THE COUNTY NEWSPAPER

57 HIGH STREET

Established 1772

WINCHESTER

Published Fridays

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All those who have assisted with publicity and the sponsors of this programme
Members and friends who have acted as Stewards and Programme Sellers and who have assisted with the Catering
And anyone who has been inadvertently omitted from these Credits

MUSICAL NUMBERS

OVERTURE

ACT I

1. Introduction and Song (*Phoebe*) When maiden loves she sits and sighs
2. Double Chorus (*People and Yeomen*) Tower warders under orders
Duet (*2nd and 1st Yeomen*) This the autumn
3. Song with Chorus (*Dame Carruthers and Yeomen*)
4. Trio (*Phoebe, Leonard and Meryll*) When our gallant Norman foes
Alas ! I waver to and fro
5. Ballad (*Fairfax*) Is life a boon?
6. Chorus (*Entrance of Crowd, Elsie and Point*) Here's a man of jollity
7. Duet (*Elsie and Point*) I have a song to sing, O
8. Trio (*Elsie Point and Lieutenant*) How say you maiden, will you wed
9. Recit. and Song (*Point*) I've jibe and joke and quip and crank
10. Recit. and Song (*Elsie*) 'Tis done ! I am a bride
11. Song (*Phoebe*) Were I thy bride
12. FINALE Oh, Sergeant Meryll, is it true

ACT 2

1. Chorus Night has spread her pall once more
Solo (*Dame Carruthers*) Warders are ye?
2. Song (*Point*) Oh ! A private buffoon is a light-
hearted loon
3. Duet (*Point and Wilfred*) Hereupon we're both agreed
4. Ballad (*Fairfax*) Free from his fetters grim
5. Quartet (*Kate, Dame Carruthers, Fairfax and Sergeant Meryll*) Strange adventure
6. Scene (*Elsie, Phoebe, Dame Carruthers, Fairfax, Wilfred, Point, Lieutenant, Sergeant Meryll and Chorus*) Hark ! What was that sir?
7. Trio (*Elsie, Phoebe and Fairfax*) A man who would woo a fair maid
8. QUARTET (*Elsie, Phoebe, Fairfax and Point*) When a wooer goes a -wooing
9. Duet (*Dame Carruthers and Sergeant Meryll*) Rapture ! rapture !
10. FINALE Comes the pretty young bride

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From a

VEGETABLE RETAILER

with apologies to W. S. Gilbert

Oh ! A brewing buffoon is a light-hearted loon,

And the autumn's his busiest season,
From the morn to the night he's so joyous and bright

That he simply won't listen to reason,
While he's chopping and bashing and mincing and mashing

His apples and quinces and melons,
His rose-hip and his rice (which is not very nice)

Will be bubbling away in their gallons.

Elderberry and rice
And banana and peach,
With some sugar and spice
And a lemon in each,

Will be bubbling away in their gallons.

There's a bucket of lager on top of the Aga
That's full of potential good cheer,
And a brew of pocheen in the washing machine

That will make this a very good year;
But the bath's now in use for extracting the juice

Of his grapes for the great fermentation,
And as treading we go, it's a comfort to know

That we really are beating inflation.

It's a comfort to feel
When your bathing must wait,
Though you suffer a deal,
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A WORD FROM THE CHAIRMAN . . .

As previously announced it is the Society's intention to stage two operas a year and our next production will be Bizet's

“CARMEN.”

Producer: Roger Baxter.

Musical Director: Brian Eastop.

To be staged at

THE GUILDHALL

on

22nd—26th APRIL, 1980

Make a note in your diary now ! ! !

Why not come and join the W.A.O.S., if not to sing, join us for the social involvement or on/off stage, with Set Design, Construction, Stage Management, Make-up, etc.

I would be pleased to welcome anyone who is interested in joining the W.A.O.S. at our SOCIAL EVENING at the Chesil Theatre on **Friday, 30th November, 7.30 p.m.**

If you require further information please contact one of our Joint Honorary Secretaries:

Valerie Bell Winchester 881980

or

Richard Trower Winchester 882135

I hope you all have a very enjoyable evening.

JOHN GOUGH



AROUND AND ABOUT

SOME DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

29th December, 1979 to 5th January, 1980
WINCHESTER DRAMATIC SOCIETY — "The Plotters of Cabbage Patch Corner"
— at the Theatre Royal, Winchester

8th to 19th January, 1980
ROMSEY A.O.D.S. — "Babes In The Wood" — at the Crosfield Hall, Romsey

18th to 23rd February, 1980
SOUTHERN THEATRE PRODUCTIONS — "The Sound of Music" — at the
Gaumont Theatre, Southampton

4th to 8th March, 1980
SOUTHAMPTON A.O.S. — "Iolanthe" — at the Guildhall, Southampton

8th to 15th March, 1980
WINCHESTER DRAMATIC SOCIETY — "She Stoops To Conquer" — at the
Chesil Theatre, Winchester

25th to 29th March, 1980
SOUTHAMPTON MUSICAL SOCIETY — "Guys and Dolls" — at the Gaumont
Theatre, Southampton

15th to 19th April, 1980
EASTLEIGH A.O.S. — "Fiddler On The Roof" — at the Town Hall, Eastleigh

22nd to 26th April, 1980
WINCHESTER A.O.S. — "Carmen" — at the Guildhall, Winchester

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If so, please contact one of our Hon. Secretaries: Dick Trower, Winchester 882135 or Valerie Bell, Winchester 881980.

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"The Pirates of Penzance"	1913	"The Mikado"	1953
"The Mikado"	1914	"Ruddigore"	1954
"Iolanthe"	1920	"The Yeomen of the Guard"	1955
"The Yeomen of the Guard"	1921	"Trial by Jury" and	
"The Gondoliers"	1922	"H.M.S. Pinafore"	1956
"Patience"	1923	"The Gondoliers"	1957
"Ruddigore"	1924	"Utopia Limited"	1958
"Trial by Jury" and		"Patience"	1959
"H.M.S. Pinafore"	1925	"Die Fledermaus"	1960
"Princess Ida"	1926	"The Gypsy Baron"	1961
"The Mikado"	1927	"The Mikado"	1962
"Iolanthe"	1928	"Cox and Box" and	
"Merrie England"	1929	"The Pirates of Penzance"	1963
"The Gondoliers"	1930	"Merrie England"	1964
"Utopia Limited"	1931	"Iolanthe"	1965
"The Yeomen of the Guard"	1932	"Princess Ida"	1966
"Cox and Box" and		"The Gondoliers"	1967
"The Pirates of Penzance"	1933	"Ruddigore"	1968
"Ruddigore"	1934	"La Vie Parisienne"	1969
"Merrie England"	1934	"The Yeomen of the Guard"	1970
"Princess Ida"	1935	"Trial by Jury" and	
"The Mikado"	1936	"H.M.S. Pinafore"	1971
"Iolanthe"	1937	"Utopia Limited"	1972
"Tom Jones"	1938	"The Merry Widow"	1973
"Monsieur Beaucaire"	1939	"The Mikado"	1974
"Merrie England" (Concert Version)	1947	"The Pirates of Penzance"	1975
"Iolanthe"	1948	"Patience"	1976
"The Gondoliers"	1949	"Die Fledermaus"	1976
"Patience"	1950	"Trial by Jury" and	
"Trial by Jury" and		"The Pirates of Penzance"	1977
"The Pirates of Penzance"	1951	"Iolanthe"	1978
"Princess Ida"	1952	"Orpheus in the Underworld"	1979

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

BUFFET DANCE — Friday, 23rd November, 1979, at the Westacre Hotel, Sleepers Hill, Winchester. Details from the Joint Social Secretary: LORNA GOUGH, 36 Tegdown Meads, Winchester (Tel. 64669)

SOCIAL EVENING — Friday, 30th November, 1979, to introduce our next production "Carmen". See local press for details

AUDITIONS FOR "CARMEN" — Tuesday, 4th and Wednesday, 5th December, 1979. Contact our Secretaries or JOHN GOUGH (Tel. 64669) in late November for details

OUR NEXT PRODUCTION — "CARMEN," at the Guildhall, Winchester, 22nd to 26th April, 1980

ANNUAL DINNER DANCE — Friday, 2nd May, 1980, at the Royal Southampton Yacht Club, details to be announced later

OUR NEXT BUT ONE PRODUCTION — "THE GONDOLIERS," at the Guildhall, Winchester, 11th to 15th November, 1980

WOULD YOU LIKE TO JOIN US?

If you are interested in any aspect of amateur operatic productions please contact the Secretaries:
VALERIE BELL, 246 Springvale Road, King's Worthy, Winchester. Telephone: 881980
RICHARD TROWER, 45 Springvale Road, King's Worthy, Winchester. Telephone: 882135

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