

Winchester Operatic Society



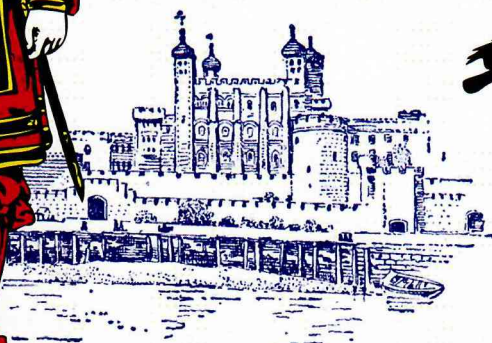
presents



Gilbert & Sullivan's

# The Deomen of the Guard

9th ~ 13th November 2010



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## President's Message

*The Yeomen of the Guard* was premiered at the Savoy Theatre on 3<sup>rd</sup> October 1888 and ran for 423 performances. It was the eleventh operetta to come from the collaboration of Gilbert and Sullivan. Set in the Tower of London during the 16<sup>th</sup> century it is the exception in their repertoire in that it does not have the usual 'happy ending'.

Their partnership had been unsteady for some time when Gilbert presented Sullivan with his suggested plot and Sullivan was 'immensely pleased' and accepted with alacrity noting that it was 'a pretty story, no topsy turvydom and very human'. Undoubtedly Sullivan wrote some of his best music for *Yeomen*. It is certainly one of my favourites.

As President my thanks are due to so many members and friends who support the Society in so many ways. It would be invidious to mention individuals but those of us you see on stage could not do it unless we had an army of supporters. There are so many aspects to taking part in amateur theatre and if you can help us in any way do join us. It is a fun and inexpensive way of enjoying yourself. Come and join us – you won't regret it.

*Richard Steel*

## Honorary Vice Presidents and Life Members

Fred Allgood, Valerie Bell, Margaret Bone, Geoffrey Burnaby, Jo Burnaby, Eileen Evans, Brian Hurst, Bob Jones, The Mayor of Winchester, Pamela Peskett, James Sabben-Clare, Richard Steel, Christine Walters, David Weait, Michael Williams.

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# Synopsis

Colonel Fairfax, a man of science, but formerly a soldier of great and dashing bravery, is confined in the Tower of London. He is under sentence of death as a sorcerer. Although he is a student of alchemy, Fairfax is still young and handsome, and Phoebe has lost her heart to him, for she sees him occasionally taking exercise on the Beauchamp Tower.

As the curtain rises the unhappy girl is discovered sighing over her hopeless love for the prisoner. Wilfred Shadbolt, head jailer and assistant tormenter, is greatly put out, for Phoebe will have none of him, though before the arrival of Fairfax she had not been so averse to his attentions. Dame Carruthers, the housekeeper to the Tower, believing Fairfax to be guilty, resents Phoebe's praise of him, and her criticisms of the Tower. The Dame was born in the old Keep, and the Tower is very dear to her; she leaves no doubt of her sentiments in the noble air "Then our gallant Norman foes."

Sergeant Meryll, of the Yeomen of the Guard, is saddened by the thought of the approaching execution of Fairfax. He greatly admires Fairfax for his brilliant career as a soldier and not even the imminent arrival of his son, Leonard Meryll, can raise his despondent spirits, though there is a hope that Leonard may bring a reprieve from Court with him for Fairfax.

Leonard arrives even while Phoebe and her father are discussing the sad case of the unfortunate prisoner; there is no reprieve. None saw him enter, and the unheralded coming gives Sergeant Meryll an idea. "Give me the dispatch," he says . . . "lie hidden for a space." Leonard does so willingly, for Fairfax was once his great friend. A moment later Fairfax passes by, under guard, on his way to the Cold Harbour Tower to await his end in solitude.



He sees and recognizes Sergeant Meryll and bids him cheer up; as a soldier, he says, he knows how to die. If life is a boon, he says, death must inevitably come too soon. Phoebe and her father are overcome with emotion and leave him.

Fairfax asks the Lieutenant of the Tower to grant him a favor. He is, he says, imprisoned as a result of the machinations of his cousin, Sir Clarence Plotwhistle - a greedy fellow to whom the Fairfax estates must naturally fall if Colonel Fairfax should die unmarried. Fairfax's request is therefore that the Lieutenant shall find him a woman willing to go through a form of marriage with him: her dower shall be Fairfax's name and a hundred crowns. Since he is to be executed in an hour's time it should be easy enough to find someone.

As Fairfax moves on his way there is laughing and shouting, and a roistering throng of men and women, pursuing a wandering jester and a merrymaid, appear. The jester, Jack Point, and the girl, Elsie Maynard, are both more than a little terrified, for the crowd, in demanding entertainment, threaten to throw them into the river if they do not come up to expectations. They sing the "singing farce of the Merryman and his maid," and are about to be mobbed by the less appreciative members of the audience when the Lieutenant reappears from the Cold Harbour Tower.

The crowd is dispersed and the Lieutenant, learning all about Elsie and Jack Point, suggests to Elsie that she be Fairfax's bride for the short hour he has to live. The hundred crowns which she is to receive tempt and persuade her. She is led blindfolded to the cell where Fairfax and his confessor await her. While she is gone Point (in the song "I've jibe and joke") explains his calling of a jester and is engaged by the Lieutenant as his jester.

Then Phoebe reflects on her state, and finally finds Wilfred alone. She determines to get the keys of Fairfax's cell from him. Exerting all her charms and flattering Wilfred, she compliments him on his jollity and wit, though he is in truth the heaviest minded dolt. Slyly she takes the keys from his belt and hands them to her father, who disappears immediately.

Whilst her father is away she sings a tempting little ditty "Were I thy bride." As she begins the last verse the keys are pushed back into her hand and she cleverly puts them back on Wilfred's belt. She runs off and Wilfred wanders away bewildered and happy.

No sooner has he gone than Sergeant Meryll and Fairfax appear from the Tower. Fairfax has put on the dress of a Yeoman of the Guard. He is to pose as the Sergeant's son Leonard. Sergeant Meryll presents his "son" to the assembled yeomen, who cheer him to the echo. Phoebe, too, welcomes this "brother" far more lingeringly and ecstatically than might be considered perfectly natural. Then while "brother and sister" are greeting one another the clock of St. Peter's begins to toll and crowds surge around to witness the execution of Fairfax. Fairfax (alias Leonard) and two other Yeomen are ordered to fetch the prisoner, but are back in a moment: the prisoner has escaped!



# ACT 2

(Two Days Later)

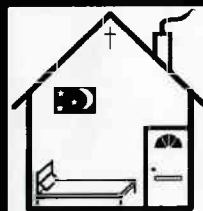


Jack Point is now in a quandary. He has agreed to Elsie's marrying the imprisoned Fairfax because he was assured that Fairfax would die within the hour. Now that Fairfax has escaped Elsie is still a married woman, and Jack Point cannot himself marry her. He conceives a plan, however. With the dazzling bribe of a free schooling in the trade of a jester he persuades Wilfred to help him in his scheme. They move off mysteriously.

Meanwhile Fairfax has learned of the identity of the woman whom he married and resolves to woo her and thus test her fidelity. A shot from the tower sets everyone agog and an excited crowd quickly gathers. Wilfred and Point both appear with an air of importance. Wilfred asserts that he has had a desperate struggle with Colonel Fairfax, whom he discovered in a dark corner of the battlements. Fairfax, after a cunning twist, eluded Wilfred and dived into the river. Wilfred, however, was equal to the occasion and shot Fairfax with his arquebus as he swam in the Thames. All this Jack Point endorses most heartily.

Elsie admits to the supposed Leonard Meryll that she loves him, when there is an interruption. A pardon for Fairfax has arrived, and simultaneously comes news that Fairfax is returning to claim his bride. Poor Elsie is distracted: she must follow Fairfax, though her heart is elsewhere. There is much musical analysis of love.

Fairfax comes. Elsie comes forward with bowed head, lamenting her cruel fate. She looks up and with a start she sees that the "Leonard" she loves is none other than this detested Fairfax. With a cry of joy she falls into his arms amid general rejoicing. Meanwhile Dame Carruthers has forced Sergeant Meryll into a proposal, and Phoebe Meryll is promised in marriage to the uncouth Wilfred. Jack Point however.....



## Winchester Churches Nightshelter

Winchester Operatic Society is pleased to support the Winchester Churches Nightshelter and has chosen this charity to benefit from after Show collections all through the week of *The Yeomen of the Guard*. We hope that you will give gener-

ously to this very worthwhile charity which offers an essential lifeline to the homeless in our City. The support for homeless people extends to helping with finding employment, training and counselling and guests can stay until suitable long-term accommodation is found. The Night Shelter is supported by donations from local people and practical support is offered by a large volunteer network. If you would be interested in helping out at any time, please ring the Shelter on 01962 862050 - or visit [www.wcns.org.uk](http://www.wcns.org.uk)

# MUSICAL NUMBERS



## ACT 1

INTRODUCTION AND SONG (*Phoebe*) - "When maiden loves she sits and sighs "

SONG (*Wilfred*) - "When jealous torments rack my soul"

DOUBLE CHORUS (*People and Yeomen, with Solo Baritone*) - "Tower warders under orders "

SONG with CHORUS (*Dame Carruthers and Yeomen*) - "When our gallant Norman foes "

TRIO (*Phoebe, Leonard, and Meryll*) - "Alas! I waver to and fro "

BALLAD (*Fairfax*) "Is life a boon? "

CHORUS (*Entrance of Crowd, Elsie, and Point*) - "Here's a man of jollity "

DUET (*Elsie and Point*) - "I have a song to sing, O "

TRIO (*Elsie, Point, and Lieutenant*) - "How say you, maiden, will you wed "

RECIT. & SONG (*Point*) - "I've jibe and joke and quip and crank "

RECIT. & SONG (*Elsie*) - "'Tis done ! I am a bride "

SONG (*Phoebe*) - "Were I thy bride "

FINALE ACT I - "Oh, Sergeant Meryll, is it true— "

## INTERVAL

## ACT 2

CHORUS - "Night has spread her pall once more "

SOLO (*Dame Carruthers*) - "Warders are ye? "

SONG (*Point*) - "Oh! a private buffoon is a light-hearted loon "

DUET (*Point and Wilfred*) - "Hereupon we're both agreed "

BALLAD (*Fairfax*) - "Free from his fetters grim "

QUARTET (*Kate, Dame Carruthers, Fairfax, and Sergeant Meryll*) - "Strange adventure! "

SCENE (*Elsie, Phoebe, Dame Carruthers, Fairfax, Wilfred, Point, Lieutenant, Sergeant Meryll, and Chorus*) - "Hark! What was that, sir? "

TRIO (*Elsie, Phoebe, and Fairfax*) - "A man who would woo a fair maid "

QUARTET (*Elsie, Phoebe, Fairfax, and Point*) - "When a wooer goes a-wooing "

DUET (*Dame Carruthers and Sergeant Meryll*) - "Rapture! Rapture! "

FINALE ACT II - "Comes the pretty young bride "



# PRINCIPALS

*Sir Richard Cholmondeley (Lieutenant of the Tower)*  
*Colonel Fairfax (under sentence of death)*  
*Sergeant Meryll (of the Yeomen of the Guard)*  
*Leonard Meryll (his son)*  
*Jack Point (a strolling jester)*  
*Wilfred Shadbolt (Head Jailer and Assistant Tormentor)*  
*First Yeoman*  
*Second Yeoman*  
*Elsie Maynard (a strolling singer)*  
*Phoebe Meryll (Sergeant Meryll's daughter)*  
*Dame Carruthers (Housekeeper to the Tower)*  
*Kate (her niece)*  
*Headsman*

Richard Steel  
 Dan Hickson  
 Mike Palette  
 Iain Barclay  
 Adrian Hickford  
 Peter Barber  
 Christopher Milne  
 Vernon Tottle  
 Sophie Pentecost  
 Katie Hickson  
 Penny Bullough  
 Jo Short  
 Dave Rowe

## CHORUS OF TOWNSPEOPLE AND YEOMEN

Sue Aiken, David Anderson, Gill Beck, Jacqui Beckingham, Minna Bedford, Geoffrey Burnaby, Deborah Cleary, Stephanie Crockford, Anne Croudass, Stephen Gleed, Jan Gwynne-Howell, Louise Hodson, Grace Honeysett, Bob Jones, Alan Matheson, Anne McDonald, Hamish McDonald, Noeline Ormerod, Colin Paice, Lois Price, Anthony Reid, Heather Reid, Gill Russell, Juliet Surridge, Mary Twomey, Mike Vokes

## ORCHESTRA

<i>Violins</i>	Nuala Land, Andy Henderson
<i>Viola</i>	Jane Houghton
<i>Cello</i>	Sam McKay
<i>Bass</i>	Julia Casson
<i>Flute</i>	David Anderson
<i>Clarinets</i>	Paul Stiles, Ann Clausen (Tues—Fri), James Underwood (Sat)
<i>Oboe</i>	Victoria Small
<i>Trumpet</i>	Wayne Landen
<i>Trombone</i>	Roger Longcroft
<i>Horn</i>	Colin McKay
<i>Percussion</i>	Paul Lovegrove

Reduced orchestration by James Newby Music  
 email: jamesnewbymusic@talk21.com



# Crew

Stage Manager:	Angie Barks
Production Team:	Anne Croudass, Louise Hodson, Pamela Jones
Orchestra Secretary:	Gill Beck
Set Design and Construction:	Sue Aiken with David Anderson, Brian Bush, David Freemantle, Warner Hall, Brian Hurst, Pamela Jones, Lois Price, Ian White
Make-up:	Liz Petley-Jones with Jacqui Beckingham, Christine Harding, Pamela Jones, Gillian Parry, Frances Stirrup,
Costumes:	Anne Croudass, Pamela Jones (costumes hired from Elizabeth Stagewear)
Props:	Trish Feltham with John Feltham, Lizzie Gilbert, Nicky Moore, Dave Rowe
Lighting Design:	Adrian Davis
Lighting and Technical:	Theatre Royal
Backstage:	the usual suspects.....
Rehearsal Accompanist:	Christine Webster
Rehearsal Refreshments:	Anne McDonald, Heather Reid
Poster and programme design:	Georgina Bottriell
Sales and Marketing:	Gill Russell, Vernon Tottle, Mary Twomey
Front of House:	Iain Steel, Robert Parsons

## Acknowledgements

- ~ Theatre Royal
- ~ St Faiths Parish Hall for regular rehearsal space
- ~ Wessex Conference Centre, Sparsholt, for Sunday rehearsal space
- ~ Peter Sillick, for publicity and show photography
- ~ St Cross Hospital for photoshoot location
- ~ Chesil Theatre Wardrobe for loan of costumes for photoshoot

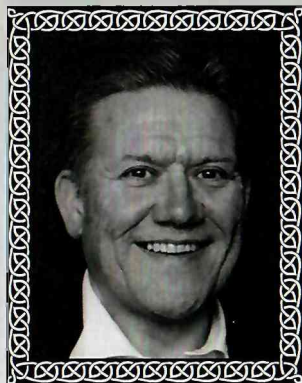
*Special thanks to the following for their donations or loans to the set:*  
 "The Otter", Otterbourne for set of keys; H M Gilbert & Son for books; Footlights Youth Theatre; The Maskers Theatre Company; RAODS



## CAST BIOGRAPHIES

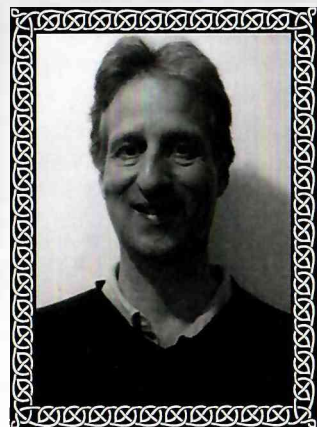
### PETER BARBER

Peter is enjoying the opportunity to try a comic role with WOS, having previously had to be somewhat more intense as Julian Marsh in *42nd Street* and Alfio in *Cavalleria Rusticana*. For many years he has enjoyed singing a wide variety of roles in opera, oratorio, musicals and pantomime across the Surrey-Hants region, ranging from the title role in *The Flying Dutchman* to an Ugly Sister in *Cinderella*! These have included leads in several of Southampton Operatic Society's shows such as *La Traviata*, *Iolanthe*, *Die Fledermaus*, *Guys & Dolls* and *Sweeney Todd*. Peter lives in Alton and works near Southampton (as a partner in the law firm Blake Laphorn), and knows Theatre Royal Winchester quite well as he is Deputy Chair of the theatre's Board of Trustees.



### IAIN BARCLAY

*The Yeomen of the Guard* will be Iain's first show with WOS and he is very much looking forward to it. He has appeared in many shows with other societies, most recently with Salisbury Amateur Operatic Society where he particularly enjoyed *Titanic: The Musical* when he played William Murdoch, the ship's First Officer, who was on the Bridge at the time of the collision.



### PENNY BULLOUGH

Penny has been a performer with WOS since the late 1980s and is grateful to the society for letting her come back once more in an attempt to get her lines right. It would help if she could just keep doing the same roles...



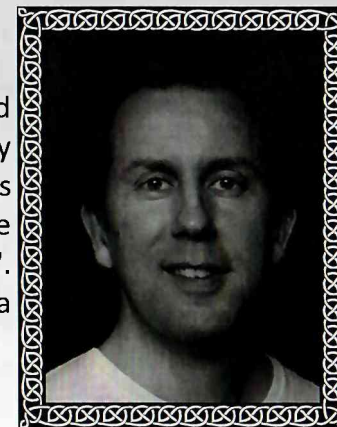
### ADRIAN HICKFORD

This is Adrian's 14th show with WOS, returning to his early stage experience of Gilbert and Sullivan. Having portrayed many of the G&S lead bass-baritone roles (originally with the University of Southampton's Light Opera Society, and more recently with WOS) this is the first time he has appeared in *The Yeomen of the Guard*. Recent roles for the Society include The Judge (*Trial by Jury*), Ko-Ko (*The Mikado*) and John Wellington Wells (*The Sorcerer*), as well as Vernon Hines (*The Pajama Game*) and Fred Graham (*Kiss Me Kate*).



### DAN HICKSON

Dan is now into his second decade with WOS and 19th production. Colonel Fairfax has a slightly darker personality than previous roles he has played but still finds himself marrying a bride he cannot see and having the hots for his 'sister'. Just a normal day in the life of a G&S operetta then....



### KATIE HICKSON

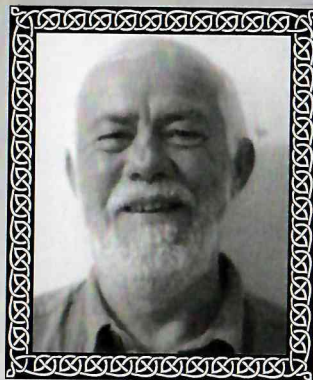
This will be Katie's 6th G&S production since joining WOS in 2002. Normally Katie finds herself playing opposite her 'real life' husband as his 'love interest'. In this show, however, it is slightly more complicated. She is still in love with him but has to pretend to be his sister whilst he is trying to woo the person he is already married to. It is all terribly complicated so she advises you read the synopsis of show through at least a couple of times! If all else fails, just enjoy the music.





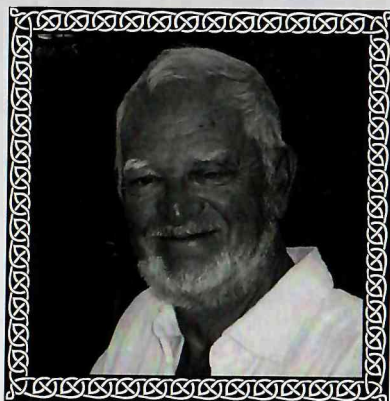
### CHRISTOPHER MILNE

Not yet "In the autumn of my life" Christopher is however retiring from singing for the foreseeable future after this show. But he will be back directing *HMS Pinafore* in 2012 and is very much looking forward to this show and to 2012.



### MIKE PALLETTE

Mike has been treading the boards for over 60 years in plays, operettas, G&S, musicals and grand opera: some professional but mostly amateur. This will be his seventh appearance in *The Yeomen of the Guard* productions which date back to 1963 when he first played Sergeant Meryll at the tender age of 21! This is his fifth show with WOS and he feels he is now at the right age to do Sergeant Meryll justice!



### SOPHIE PENTECOST

Sophie's musical career began at the age of 12 when she was a founder member of the Winchester Cathedral Girls Choir in 1998. This experience boosted her flair for music and she then went on with a music scholarship to study music and drama at A level at Sherborne School for Girls. Leaving Sherborne in 2004 she attended Chichester University where she studied music performance at BA and MA level. Since graduating, Sophie has been singing as much as she can at weddings and corporate events. Her previous WOS appearance was in last year's production of *The Mikado* as Yum-Yum. She has also recently become a proud member of the new vocal acapella group *Apollo 5*.



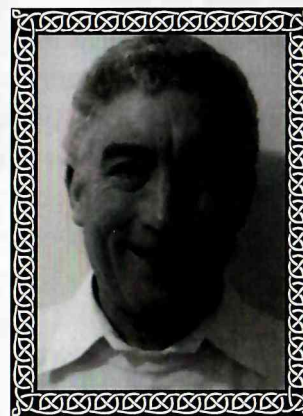
### JO SHORT

This is Jo's third show with WOS. She appeared as a dancer in *Kiss me Kate* and as Phyllis Dale in *42<sup>nd</sup> Street* earlier this year. She has been a keen performer in the local area for many years and has appeared in all of the Gilbert and Sullivan operas (many of them more than once!). Jo's favourite roles include Jacquie (*Me and My Girl*), Erma (*Anything Goes*), Helene (*Sweet Charity*), Phyllis (*Iolanthe*) and the silent role of Woodstock (*Snoopy*!)



### RICHARD STEEL

"*The Yeomen of the Guard* is certainly one of my favourite G&S operettas and playing Sir Richard will be my one and only chance of a knighthood!" Richard's first show with WOS was *Merrie England* in 1964 since when he has taken many leading roles. He played the part of Danilo in *The Merry Widow* five times in Winchester and elsewhere "They added a little grey to my hair the first time but then gradually darkened it down over the years!" Indeed his last appearance on stage was in *The Merry Widow* in 1997 when his son Iain played Camille (although he did sing from the orchestra pit for an emergency in *La Vie Parisienne*). He is a Life Member and the Society's President.

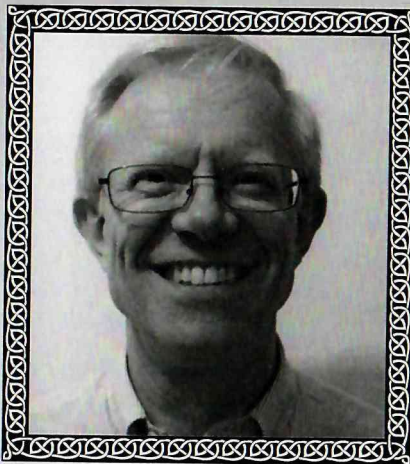


### VERNON TOTTLE

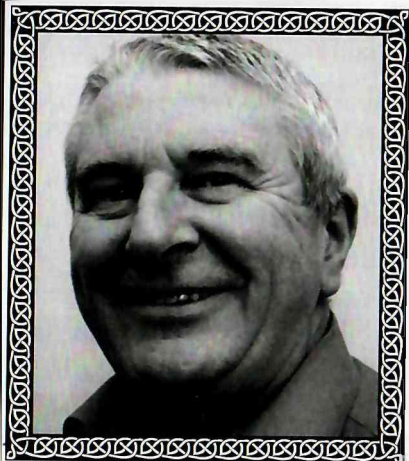
Vernon's first ever stage show was *The Yeomen of the Guard*, back in university days. This is his first ever mention in an Operatic Society programme (and probably his last), his only previous solo roles being that of the uncredited "Dictaphone Machine" in *The Pajama Game* and "the first man who comes on during the overture" in *42<sup>nd</sup> Street*.

### DEREK BECK – MUSICAL DIRECTOR

This is Derek's fifteenth appearance 'on point duty' at a WOS production, including an award-winning *Carmen* in New Hall in 2000. Born in Lancashire, he read music and various magazines at Durham University and, as a Rotary International Fellow, studied conducting at the University of Washington, USA. He taught on Merseyside (where he sang, produced and conducted much Gilbert and Sullivan), the Isle of Wight and latterly at Peter Symonds College in Winchester as well as being an Open University music tutor. He has been the organist at St. Cross Hospital for 23 years, conducts the 80-voice Twyford Singers and is Musical Director of the Winchester & County Music Festival, responsible for their annual choral and orchestral performances in the Cathedral. Derek fills his 'spare time' with grandchildren, voluntary guiding in the Cathedral, giving not-very-serious talks to very serious organisations and pursuing his penchant for playing everyone's parts in rehearsals!



Liam is overjoyed to be working with WOS. It has given him a chance to renew the acquaintance of old friends and, hopefully, make new ones. It has also allowed him to revisit an old friend, namely, *The Yeomen of the Guard*. This is the fourth production of *Yeomen* he has been involved in - twice performing on stage, and now, twice in the Director's chair. In the past, he has directed shows ranging from G&S to Shakespeare, Coward to Pantomime. As a performer, he has tackled roles as diverse as *Macbeth*, C.S. Lewis (*Shadowlands*), Baron Hardup (*Cinderella*) and a shaven-headed Italian nut-case (*Saturday, Sunday, Monday*).



### SALLY BAILEY – ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

This is the second G&S production for which Sally has assisted Liam – the first being *The Mikado* for her home company RAODS. She finds it strange how enjoyable the experiences have been for a girl who has loathed G&S all her life - perhaps she is mellowing a little round the edges! Sally would like to thank everyone involved in this production for making her feel so welcome at WOS. Next week she starts work on her own production of *Gypsy* for RAODS at the Plaza Theatre, Romsey in April 2011 – she hopes to see you all there!



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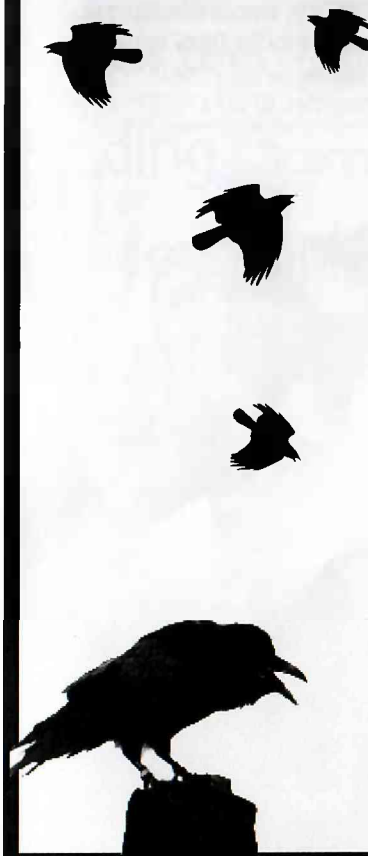
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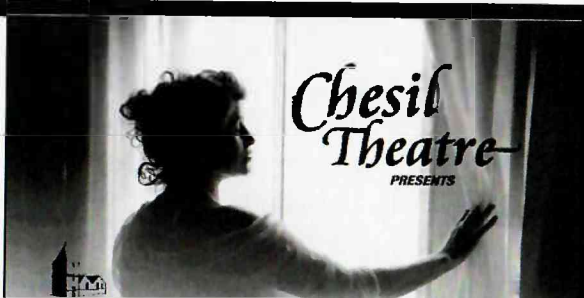
# WINCHESTER ROTARY



WOS would like to thank Winchester Rotary for their continuing support of our productions. Rotary are enabling over 40 local senior citizens to attend the Saturday matinee performance of *The Yeomen of the Guard*. We hope Rotary and their guests enjoy the show!

For more information about Rotary in Winchester, contact the secretary: Ian White  
01962 853458 or  
ianwhite857@btinternet.com  
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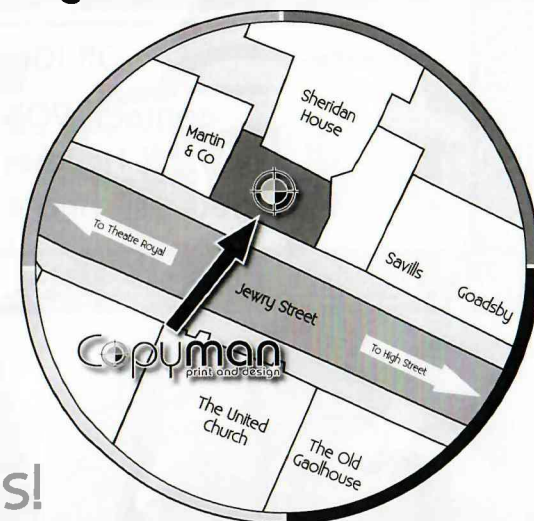
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PLAZA THEATRE

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[www.plazatheatre.com](http://www.plazatheatre.com)

## OUR NEXT SHOW

### Info Evening:

Wednesday 1st December, 7.45pm,  
St Faiths Parish Hall, Back Street,  
Winchester. Further information  
from Louise Hodson,  
Production Secretary:  
[louise\\_hodson549@hotmail.com](mailto:louise_hodson549@hotmail.com)  
or visit  
[www.winchester-operatic.org.uk](http://www.winchester-operatic.org.uk)

## ENCORE YOUTH THEATRE

CELEBRATING 30 YEARS OF AWARD WINNING PERFORMANCES

Support 2010 - National Service & Drama Association Southern Area Accolade of Excellence for Best Youth Production

A programme supported and funded by Winchester District Council and the local community.

An epic, passionate and fast moving romantic comedy that begins one summer's evening in North London. The night of a young bloke's 16th birthday.

The night he commits a petty crime to impress the girl he loves. When the police arrive, young Joe is faced with one of those crossroad choices we all face at points in our lives. Stay or run.

## The Madness Musical

OUR HOUSE NW1

A LONDON LOVE STORY

Theatre Royal Winchester  
Wednesday 23 - Sat 26 February 2011  
7.30pm & Saturday matinee @ 2.30pm

BAGGY TROUSERS

DRIVING IN MY CAR IT MUST BE LOVE

FEATURING THE MUSIC OF MADNESS

Tickets: £13.50, £8.50 (concessions)  
Family Ticket: £40 (2 adults / 2 concessions)  
Special Offer: Wednesday 23 February  
get two full priced tickets for the price of one!

Winchester Operatic Society

# ANYTHING GOES

10th - 14th May 2011

Director: Shaun Dodimead  
MD: John Sparrow



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