

THE
Merry
Widow



HALIFAX
PLAYHOUSE



How All Souls' Amateur Operatic Society began:

A meeting was held in September 1960 to discover what interest there would be in a musical production and in the formation of an Amateur Operatic Society at All Souls' Church.

It was decided to commence rehearsals on Thursday evenings, 'The Mikado' by Gilbert and Sullivan being chosen for possibly the first production in the future.

A committee was elected, as follows: The Vicar (Mr Walker), Mr R E Moulds, Mrs R E Moulds, Mr H E Copping, Mr G Horsfield, Mr M Walker, Mr P Scott, Miss P Webster and Miss V Copping.

Mrs R E Moulds was proposed for Musical Director and consented to the Appointment.

It was proposed that Miss I Booth be asked to be pianist.

A concert version of 'The Mikado' was given in the Church Hall on May 27th 1961.

The first constitution of the Society was approved at the first Annual General Meeting on September 30th 1961.

A concert version of 'The Gondoliers' was given in the Church Hall on January 20th 1962.

1ST SHOW - MIKADO 1962



This page kindly sponsored by Roy & Theresa Sykes

Quote extracts from The Halifax Courier

"The Mikado carried on a gust of enthusiasm" May 1st – 3rd and May 5th 1962

"All Souls' Church Hall, Halifax, hummed in expectation last night as a large audience waited for the birth of its operatic society's first show. 'The Mikado' by Gilbert and Sullivan. The show moved uncertainly at first, blinked at the unfamiliar spotlights a little awkwardly, and then with an upsurge of confidence both walked and ran with ease as it suddenly became at home on the stage."

"Ernest Fletcher, the producer, had needed all his skill to overcome a stage whose width was no bigger than a diminutive hop, step and jump but not once did the flow of a cast, which numbered 40 strong, bottle up into an untidy jam."

"The whole production was carried along in a gust of enthusiasm especially by choruses. They juggled the words into the air from note to note without fumble or a slip. All credit for this must certainly go to their musical director, Sheila Moulds, whose tight direction dared even half a note to misbehave at its peril."

Message from our current Joint Presidents:

"50 years and still going! We never thought, that when Rev John F Walker called a meeting in 1960 to see what interest there would be in forming a society to perform shows in the church hall, that we would be celebrating fifty years of fellowship and fun.

Those two words were the most important ones, Fellowship and Fun. The late vicar of All Souls brought together a group of like-minded people and we are still reaping the benefits of his ideas.

We formed lasting friendships and, have given pleasure to others and ourselves. Long may this tradition continue.

This year's show 'The Merry Widow ' should prove to be a winner on both sides of the footlights. Lehárs' masterpiece has enjoyed great popularity since its first production in 1905.

Sit back , relax and enjoy."

Sheila M Moulds

Arthur E Talbot



1963
PIRATES OF PENZANCE



1964
TRIAL BY JURY

1964
HMS PINAFORE



ALL SOULS' AMATEUR OPERATIC SOCIETY

Hon. Joint Presidents:

Mrs S M MOULDS
Mr A E TALBOT

Hon. Life Vice-Presidents:

Mr P GREENWOOD
Mr R SANDERSON

Chairman:

BRIAN J HARRISON

Secretary:

BRENT PATTERSON
6 Grange Court, Southowram, Halifax

Treasurer:

DAVID S HOWARD

Hon. Auditor:

GEORGE A CRAWSHAW

General Committee:

MARGARET CRAWSHAW, AMY ELLISON,
DOREEN OAKLEY, JAMES SMITHIES, CATHY SUTCLIFFE

Hon. Life Members:

Mr F BERRY

Mr R HOWARTH

Mr H LEACH

Miss J LEESON

Mrs M MITCHELL

Mrs S ROBERTSHAW

Mrs S SPENCER

Mr M J SUTCLIFFE

Mrs N THOMPSON

Mrs E WOOD

Mr P WOOD

Mrs S WOOD

Visit our new website: www.myspace.com/allsoulsHalifax
Email: asaos@hotmail.co.uk





GSG Pianos



Grove House, Wade House Road, Shelf, Halifax

Tel: 01274 677450

Email: graham@gsgpianos.co.uk

www.gsgpianos.co.uk

Opening Times:

Mon-Sat: 9.00 am to 5.30 pm

(Closed Wednesday and Sunday)

Other times, welcome by prior arrangement

CLECKHEATON & SPENBOROUGH AMATEUR OPERATIC & DRAMATIC SOCIETY

A Registered Charity

Affiliated to the National Operatic & Dramatic Association



Present at Cleckheaton Town Hall:

Fawlty Towers

18th to 20th May 2011

*A play by John Cleese and Connie Booth
Based on three episodes from the TV series*

La Cage Aux Folles

22nd to 26th November 2011

*Book by Harvey Fierstein
Music and Lyrics by Jerry Herman
Based on the play by Jean Poiret*

Tickets for both productions available from
The Ticket Secretary on 01274 877828 or visit www.spenboroughamateurs.co.uk



ALL SOULS' AMATEUR OPERATIC SOCIETY

present their fiftieth production

'The Merry Widow'

Original Book & Lyrics by Victor Leon and Leo Stein

Music by Franz Lehár

New Book and Lyrics by Phil Park

Music adapted and arranged by Ronald Hanmer

This amateur production is presented by arrangement with Glocken Verlag Ltd



www.halifaxplayhouse.org.uk

At The Playhouse, Halifax.

Each evening at 7.15 pm

29th March – 2nd April 2011

Stage Director/Choreographer

Judith M Morris

Musical Director

Colin Akers

Accompanists

Matthew MacGregor

Christopher Pulleyn

Dancers supplied and
choreographed by:

Janet Fletcher
(of Stage Door Studio)

Programme Cover Design by Paul Talbot-Greaves



Affiliated to the National Operatic and Dramatic Association

This page kindly sponsored by Wilf & Maureen Franklin



Whatever your tax or accountancy burden expert help is at hand

Since 1988 Broadbents Accountants & Business Advisors have helped a wide range of businesses and private individuals with their tax affairs and accountancy requirements. We can offer you the following and more...

Annual accounts preparation, tax planning and business structuring

•
Company and individual tax returns/self assessments

•
Payroll advice and procedures, book keeping and VAT returns

•
FREE client visits at your office or home

Call us now on 01422 347 880 or email info@broadbentsltd.co.uk



21 Clare Road, Halifax, West Yorkshire HX1 2HX



helping you make the right decisions



www.broadbentsltd.co.uk

THE STUDIO ROOMS

11, ST JAMES STREET,
HALIFAX

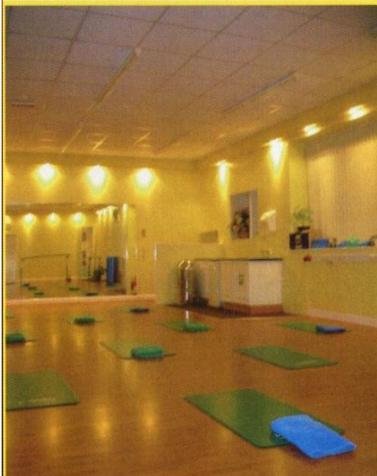
TEL: 01422 200334 / 345088



Book today!



COME ALONG & JOIN THE
ACTIVITIES NOW BEING HELD
AT THIS GREAT VENUE



PILATES CLASSES FOR ADULTS

THEATRE WORKSHOPS AGED 3+

ACT, DANCE & SING

DANCERCISE FOR LADIES

SOCIAL OCCASIONS OR

BUSINESS MEETINGS

BELLWOODS REMOVALS

EXPERT REMOVERS – PIANO SPECIALISTS – SINGLE ITEMS

COMPLETE PACKING SERVICE, IF REQUIRED

DISCOUNTS FOR SENIOR CITIZENS

17 Highcroft Crescent, Almondbury, Huddersfield.

Tel: (01484 538917)

J & J W LONGBOTTOM LTD IRONFOUNDERS

Bridge Foundry, Holmfirth,
Huddersfield

Tel: 01484 682141

for

CAST IRON RAINWATER GOODS

Pipes, Gutters, Fittings, Gratings

Comprehensive stock of all items always available

Halifax Gilbert and Sullivan Society
will present

H M S Pinafore

at Halifax Playhouse
from Tuesday November 1st to Saturday November 5th 2011
7.30 each evening, with a matinee at 2.30 on Saturday
For advance ticket enquiries please phone 01422-381931



The Halifax branch of the Navy is running a recruitment campaign for sailors and their ladies. If you would like to join the Society for this production and for its other activities, please contact the Secretary, Kathryn Buxton, at 01484-301291. We will start music rehearsals from May onwards, and production rehearsals from September. Auditions for principal parts are open to all, and will take place on Sunday May 8th at All Saints Church Hall, Skircoat Green. Rehearsals and other events take place at the same venue on Friday evenings from 7.45. Please see our website for further information

www.halifaxgands.org.uk



Mytholmroyd
St Michael's
Amateurs
Proudly Present

BELOW STAIRS

A MUSICAL COMEDY

Book by Trevor Dilling, Music by Alan Lewis
Lyrics by Trevor Dilling and Alan Lewis



**Tues 17th -
Sat 21st May**

7.15pm Nightly

2.15pm Saturday Matinee

St Michael's Parish Hall,
Mytholmroyd

Adults £10 / Concessions £8

for more information or
to book tickets visit

www.stmichaelsamateurs.org.uk

or call our
ticket hotline

**01422
885596**

in aid of


**yorkshire
cancer
research**

COTON and ELLIS

(agricultural)

COBBY DOG -- VITALIN -- CAT LITTER

GROWMORE -- ROSE FERTILIZER

BIRD FOOD -- PEANUTS

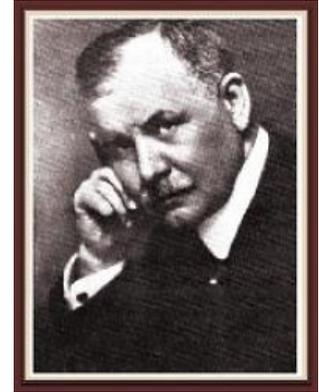
COMPOST -- LAWN FOOD

Miall Street, Halifax

(Just below Queens Road, off Pellon Lane)



FRANZ LEHÁR
April 30, 1870 - Oct 24, 1948



Best known as a composer of operettas, Franz Lehár studied with his father, a military bandmaster, and from 1882 to 1888 he was a pupil at the Prague Conservatory, studying violin and music theory. On the advice of Dvorak, he concentrated on composition.

After graduation, he played violin in the opera orchestra at Elberfeld. Later, he joined his father's band, the Fiftieth Infantry, in Vienna, as assistant bandmaster. In Vienna, he also free-lanced as a conductor, and in the Spring of 1902, became conductor at the Theater-an-der-Wien in his Vienna.

His opera Wiener Frauen was produced there in November, 1902. From that time, he lived in Vienna, and devoted his time to composition.

In the course of over 35 years' of composition, Franz Lehár enriched the musical theatre repertoire with over 30 works ranging from the sparkling gaiety of the pre-1914 era - The Merry Widow and Count of Luxembourg - to the tragic sensuality of his later works such as Frederica and Guiditta.

His greatest success was The Merry Widow, which was first produced at Theater-an-der-Wein on December 30, 1905, which had more than five thousand performances. At one time, it ran simultaneously in five different languages in five different theatres, all in Buenos Aires.

Though many of these works are often performed in the original German language only a few have had their due recognition in English.

His works also include sonatas, symphonic poems, marches, and dances.

MEMBERS OF THE CAST



VALENCIENNE
Christine Roberts



BARON ZETA
Brian Harrison



CAMILLE
Leon Waksberg



DANILO
John Ramsdin



ANNA
Amy Ellison



NJEGUS
Tony Sutcliffe



KROMOV
David Prosser



BOGDANOVITSCH
Tim Widdop



OLGA
Jeanette Kendall



PRITSCH
Jai Jai Ekins



PRASKOVIA
Kathleen Smith



CASCADA
Tony Crabtree



SYLVIA
Cherie Patterson



ST BRIOCHE
Dave Cockerham

PRODUCTION OFFICIALS

STAGE DIRECTOR/CHOREOGRAPHER



JUDITH M MORRIS: Judith almost took her first breath singing! She was born into a very musical family and began 'treading the boards' in Sunday School pantos as a child. She played her first adult role 'Nellie' in 'South Pacific' aged 21, with her home society Cleckheaton & Spenborough AODS, where her Grandparents had been founder members. She has appeared in over 100 shows – some of her favourites include 'Hello Dolly', 'Kiss Me Kate', 'King & I' and 'The Merry Widow' in all of which she has played the title roles numerous times, receiving NODA's 'Best Actress' award three times. She turned her hand to directing over 10 years ago and is directing with us here for a second time.

MUSICAL DIRECTOR



COLIN AKERS: Colin started his musical life quite late at the age of 11 and at 16 went to Chethams School of Music with joint first study instruments of piano and flute. He then went on to Huddersfield University to study primarily music performance. He joined Halifax G&S in 1988, initially as accompanist, and was promoted to Musical Director in 2000 when his first show was 'The Yeomen of the Guard' with the most recent being the relatively unknown 'Grand Duke'. In 2005 he joined Batley G&S as Musical Director. As well as being an accompanist, Colin is also a member of an orchestra that supports several societies throughout West and North Yorkshire.

ACCOMPANISTS



MATTHEW MACGREGOR: Matthew is currently studying for his A-Levels (one being music) at the North Halifax Grammar School, where he also takes part in a broad range of other musical activities. He has studied the piano for 11 years, gaining his first diploma in summer 2010 at which time he started accompanying 'All Souls', and has thoroughly enjoyed seeing the show come together. If his A-Level results are good enough he hopes he will be able to accept the offer of a place at Cambridge University to study music, starting this September.



CHRISTOPHER PULLEYN: Christopher began accompanying at the age of 14, for a production of the musical 'The Boyfriend'. Since then, he has continued to enjoy a busy career playing for choirs and soloists around the North. Having recently returned from living in Japan, he is currently Assistant Musical Director of the Bradford Festival Choral Society, and performs regular concerts with the Liverpool Italian Opera Company. Last year (at the last minute) he stepped in to help accompany 'All Souls' performance of Kismet, and is happy to have been asked back to play for 'The Merry Widow' (not at such short notice!)

THE STORY

ACT I

At the Embassy Ball Baron Zeta, the Ambassador, worries that Pontevedro is under threat of imminent crisis. Anna Glavari (The Merry Widow) is a recent widow and the duchy's wealthiest citizen, and she must not marry a foreigner or financial ruin will result for Pontevedro. The obvious course is to get her safely married again, so the Baron sends Njegus to fetch Count Danilo Danilovitsch, the country's most eligible bachelor and prime marrying material, from Maxim's, where he spends his time drinking and dancing with the Grisettes. Unbeknown to the Baron, Danilo had once loved Anna, and still does, but he refuses to court her because he values that love more than the pursuit of money. Anna, on the other hand, vows that she will not have him until he says 'I love you'.

Several flirtations are going on at the ball, the most serious being between the Baron's wife, Valencienne, and the Frenchman Count Camille de Rosillon. The lady half heartedly protests that she is a 'highly respectable wife' but is swept off her feet by the ardent lover who writes on her fan 'I love you'. As a cover for their flirtation, Valencienne encourages Camille to court Anna.

ACT II

Anna celebrates at her house with an authentic Pontevedrian party. The Baron believes Camille's attentions to Anna, but also suspects that he is already involved with a married woman. He orders Danilo to find the woman and, to aid him, gives him the compromising fan which he has found. Through Danilo's carelessness the fan comes into the possession of Anna, who assumes he had purposely left it for her to find with the loving message – she is delighted, but still wants to hear the words spoken.

Meanwhile, Camille has persuaded Valencienne to meet him in the summerhouse. Unfortunately, the Baron is told that Camille is with his 'married' love and spying through the summerhouse's keyhole, thinks he has seen his wife and demands entrance. While a crowd gathers, Njegus rescues Valencienne through the back entrance and when the front door opens, out steps the Frenchman with Anna. The Baron is shattered to think her millions are lost, and a furious Danilo heads to Maxim's to drown his sorrows.

ACT III

Anna, still eager to woo her old love transforms her garden to resemble Maxim's, where Valencienne and her friends masquerade as Grisettes. Danilo is delighted Anna has decorated her garden to imitate his favourite night spot, and tells her that it is imperative she should give up Camille as her millions must stay in the Fatherland. Anna confesses to Danilo her escapade in the summerhouse was to save a friend's honour but, although overjoyed, Danilo still cannot bring himself to say the words "I love you". The Baron, having found the fan and recognising it as his wife's, swears he will divorce her and proposes to Anna who reveals, under the terms of her late husband's will, she forfeits her fortune when she remarries. Hearing that, at last Danilo tells Anna that he loves her and to complete the happiness, Valencienne is able to convince the Baron of her fidelity.

As for the twenty million francs....?

THE CAST

Anna, Madame Glavari, The Merry Widow	-	Amy Ellison
Danilo, Count Danilovitsch, Pontevedrian Attaché	-	John Ramsdin
Baron Zeta, Pontevedrian Ambassador	-	Brian Harrison
Valencienne, The Ambassador's Wife	-	Christine Roberts
Camille, Count de Rossillon	-	Leon Waksberg
Njegus, Baron Zeta's Factotum	-	Tony Sutcliffe
St Brioche, Guest	-	David Cockerham
Cascada, Guest	-	Tony Crabtree
Kromov, An Attaché	-	David Prosser
Olga, Wife of Kromov	-	Jeanette Kendall
Bogdanovitsch, An Attaché	-	Tim Widdop
Pritsch, An Attaché	-	Jai Jai Ekins
Sylvia, Guest	-	Cherie Patterson
Praskovia, Guest	-	Kathleen Smith

Grisettes at Maxim's

Lolo.....	Cherie Patterson	Dodo	Jeanette Kendall
Jou-Jou	Doreen Oakley	Frou-Frou	Maggie Horsfield
Clo-Clo	Sue Harrison	Margot	Jean Murphy

Dancers

Natalie Brooke Annalisa McGorlick Jessica Tinsley

Flunky

Nathan Farrar

Guests and Officials

Stephanie Bolton	Margaret Crawshaw	Fiona Fox
Wilf Franklin	Bronwyn Gudgeon	Anne Hainsworth
Sue Harrison	Maggie Horsfield	Jean Murphy
Doreen Oakley	David Parkin	Jessica Patterson
Sharon Patterson	Alison Shedden	Peter Sugden

=====
Raffle prizes can be collected after the show, in the foyer
=====

SYNOPSIS OF SCENES AND MUSICAL NUMBERS

ACT I – A Salon in the Pontevedrian Embassy in Paris

Overture

<i>“Pontevedro in Paree”</i>	-	Cascada, Zeta & Ensemble
<i>“A Highly Respectable Wife”</i>	-	Valencienne & Camille
<i>“So Many Men Admire Me”</i>	-	Anna & Men
<i>You’ll Find Me At Maxim’s</i>	-	Danilo & Ladies
<i>“It Goes to Show”</i>	-	Anna & Danilo
<i>Finale Act I</i>	-	Ensemble

ACT II – The Gardens of Madame Glavari’s Residence (early the following evening)

<i>“Vilia”</i>	-	Anna & Ensemble
<i>“Driving In The Park With You”</i>	-	Anna & Danilo
<i>“Women! Women! Women!”</i>	-	Danilo, Cascada, St Brioche, Zeta, Kromov, Bogdanovitsch & Pritsch
<i>Introduction to the Waltz Scene</i>	-	Anna & Danilo
<i>The Waltz Scene</i>	-	Anna & Danilo
<i>“Flow’rs Are Awakened In Maytime”</i>	-	Valencienne & Camille
<i>Finale Act II, Part One</i>	-	Anna, Valencienne, Danilo, Camille, Zeta & Njegus
<i>Finale, Act II, Part Two</i>	-	Ensemble
<i>Finale Act II, Part Three</i>	-	Anna, Valencienne, Danilo & Ensemble
<i>Finale Act II, Part Four</i>	-	Anna, Danilo & Ensemble
<i>Finale Act II, Part Five</i>	-	Ensemble

ACT III – The Same – A La Maxim’s – later that night

<i>The Grisettes’ Song</i>	-	Valencienne, Grisettes & Ensemble
<i>Reprise “You’ll Find Me At Maxim’s”</i>	-	Danilo & Grisettes
<i>The Merry Widow Walltz</i>	-	Anna & Danilo
<i>Finale Act III</i>	-	Ensemble

1st Interval 20 minutes

2nd Interval ??? minutes

ASAOS PRODUCTION OFFICIALS

Stage Director	Judith M Morris
Musical Director	Colin Akers
Rehearsal Accompanist	Matthew MacGregor
Accompanists	Matthew MacGregor & Christopher Pulleyn
Dancers' Choreographer	Janet Fletcher
Stage Manager	Jim Cheetham
House Manager	Christine Marsh
Designer & Artist	Paul Talbot-Greaves
Costumes	Doreen Oakley, with thanks to Applause
Properties	Society Members and Ann Watson-Bunn
Publicity	Jean V Murphy
Ticket Secretary	David Howard
Prompter	Cathy Sutcliffe
Librarian	Cathy Sutcliffe
Scenery	Members of the Society led by Jim Cheetham
Make Up	Tracey Burn, Sara Jones, Sheila Spencer Sandra Tann, Jean Taylor, Helen Woodcock
Stage Crew	William Heavyside, David Howard, Chris Murphy Bob Parker, Peter Widdop, Chris Winspear
Lighting	Chris McEvoy
Rehearsal Refreshments	with thanks to Ralph Howard and Cathy Sutcliffe

FOR THE PLAYHOUSE

Stage Managers	Ian Henderson & John WorriLOW
Lighting	Courtesy of the Playhouse Team

THE MERRY WIDOW



Music by Franz Lehár
Lyrics by Norman Sachs and Mel Mandel

Cast

ANNA MOFFO	SONIA
MARY ELLEN PRACHT	NATALIE
WILLIAM LEWIS	DANILO
ARTHUR RUBIN	CAMILLE
ROBERT NAGY	ST. BRIOCHE
KENNETH SMITH	CASCADE

World Première at the Theater-an-der-Wien,
Vienna, December 30, 1905

PRELUDE * Sonia, Cascada, St. Brioche and Chorus: *Marriage in Marsovia* * Danilo: *The Problems of a Prince* * FINALE, ACT I—Danilo, Sonia, St. Brioche, Natalie, Camille, Cascada and Chorus: *Ladies' Choice* * OPENING, ACT II—Sonia and Chorus: *Vilia* * Chorus: *Mademoiselles at Maxim's* * Danilo and Sonia: *The Love of Long Ago* * FINALE—Danilo, Sonia and Chorus: *Courting Girls*.

The man who opposed Franz Lehár's becoming conductor of the Vienna Municipal Orchestra—on the ground that Lehár could not conduct waltzes!—was the first to attempt to write the music for *The Merry Widow*. His name was Richard Heuberger, and he succeeded in neither of his efforts: he was not a very successful writer of waltzes, and, in spite of his opposition, Lehár subsequently conducted waltzes in the grand tradition at the Theater-an-der-Wien. For this musical tale of the gay lady from Marsovia, Lehár wrote much beautiful music, including one of the most famous waltzes of all time—that which bears the title of the show. But when they first heard it, the producers cared very little for the composer's work; one of them is reported to have said to the librettist, Victor Leon: "What were you thinking of, my dear Leon? This isn't music!" Auditions were discouraging; rehearsals, disheartening. Convinced that the show must fail, the producers kept the budget so tight that old costumes were used, and most of the props and scenery were drawn from stock used for previous productions. To add colour to the Parisian garden party scene, Leon was even obliged to buy cheap paper lanterns.

Eventually, the producers threatened to withdraw the show, and the cast volunteered to rehearse at night, after the final performance of the work in which they were then appearing.

On opening night, *The Merry Widow* was a success with the audience—even the producers got up to take curtain calls. The press was cool, however, and it just limped through 50 performances before being moved to the Neue Wiener Stadttheater. Here, the show really caught on, and played



Mr. Joseph Coyne as Danilo, and Miss Lily Elsie as 'The Merry Widow'.

to 600 houses. It also began to conquer foreign audiences, and ran to 775 performances in London.

Its story is not too complex. Sonia, the Merry Widow, is enjoying herself in Paris. She is a native of Marsovia and is under the surveillance of its ambassador, who is anxious that she marry a fellow-countryman and so keep her fortune at home. Prince Danilo is elected to woo and win this lady. To his astonishment, she turns out to be the girl whom once he loved, but was forbidden to marry because she was not an aristocrat. Now that she is a wealthy prize, he declares that he will never again tell her that he loves her. He will, however, make every effort to prevent her from marrying a Frenchman. Danilo's gay song, *The Problems of a Prince*, is one of the delights of the show.

Eventually, Sonia receives a suitor whose real interest is in the ambassador's wife; she has been urging Danilo to woo her, but he is still cool, and so she substitutes herself for the ambassador's wife, places herself in a compromising situation with the suitor, and then announces that she will marry him. Danilo, when he hears this, is heartsick. But he is still adamant.

In the last act, Sonia announces that she does not, after all, intend to marry. Danilo is tempted, but cannot bring himself to declare his love. Then Sonia explains that, under her late husband's will, if she marries again she will lose her fortune. At last, Danilo has the penniless girl who was his early love. Trembling, he says: "I love you," and as a happy ending looms in sight they dance to the magnificent *Merry Widow Waltz*.

phoenix RADIO 96.7 FM

Phoenix Radio is Calderdale's own full-time community radio station, broadcasting 24 hours a day, 7 days a week on **96.7 FM** and online at www.phoenixfm.co.uk

From brass bands to bhangra, punk rock to poetry, nostalgia to new bands from our area, our evening and weekend specialist music programmes have something for everyone. During the day we play a variety of music, interview guests about a diverse range of topics of local interest, and keep you informed about forthcoming events and activities, news, travel and weather.

We support the people of Calderdale. We offer advertising and sponsorship opportunities to local organisations and businesses, run accredited courses for young people and offer training to volunteers of all ages.

To get in touch please call 01422 365923 or e-mail sales@phoenixfm.co.uk



Building bridges, bridging gaps



*We would like to thank all the sponsors
for their donations
towards our 50th Anniversary
Celebration Prize Draw.*

(Ipod, Case of Wine, DJ for a night + many others)

Buy your £1 Prize Draw tickets from any Member of the Society!

This page kindly sponsored by Margaret Tennant

About All Souls' Amateur Operatic Society

The Society was founded in 1962, and until 1984 performed in the All Souls' Church Hall. From 1985 to 1987 we performed at The Marlborough Hall, and since 1988, at the Playhouse. The rooms which we occupied from 1984 were burned down in 1992, but within a year we had rented an old woollen storage shed and built rehearsal rooms, construction workshop, kitchen and wardrobe area. Unfortunately, this also burned down in 1998, since when our rehearsals have been held at The Studio Rooms, St James Street, Halifax.

We are a group of around eighty people, of whom forty or so are performing members. Originally based at the All Souls' Church in Halifax, the Society is now non-denominational, but retains a Christian ethos and has made contributions to many local charities.

Although the Society makes every effort to fill as many roles as possible from its own membership, open auditions continue to attract new members, singers, actors and helpers. We also aim to manufacture our own sets and prepare our own properties. Our wardrobe tries to furnish as many costumes as possible.

We have been noted for our efforts in introducing little-known works to Halifax audiences. Notable were the local premieres of 'La Vie Parisienne', 'La Perichole', 'The Beggar Student' and our Millennium production of Offenbach's 'Bluebeard'.

The overall performance and musicianship of the Society has been widely acclaimed and we strive to maintain high standards of performance and musicianship. In the past we have been awarded the Halifax PLC Shield for the best local performance in 1993 for 'The Merry Widow', in 1995 for 'La Belle Helene' and in 1997 for 'Die Fledermaus'.

Each year, in addition to our musical stage production, we perform our annual 'Accent on Song' concert in which the music varies from spirituals to grand opera. Our rehearsals take place on Thursday evenings, and are very enjoyable occasions.

If you would like to sing, act, help with scenery or costumes, assist backstage, front of house, or simply join a group of friendly people, why not become a member yourself? Interested? Please see our new website – www.myspace.com/allsoulshalifax (email: asaos@hotmail.co.uk) - or contact Mrs Jean Murphy, Information Officer, on 01484 717934.

The Society wishes to thank all advertisers, page sponsors and anyone who helped in any way with the compilation of this programme. Last, but no means least, thanks to you, our audience, without whom we would have no reason to perform.

All Souls' Amateur Operatic Society is a Registered Charity, No: 700670

My memories of Merry Widow year:

Having to make my 2nd act costume myself, I seem to think there was some fancy curtain net over the top, but it looked good from afar.

Don, playing Camille, coming out of the garden pavilion having been FOUND and pushing the door instead of pulling - such drama! the music was going on, and we couldn't get out to sing the big dramatic drama, but we did, eventually!

Sheila Moulds, Arthur Talbot and myself mopping the stage the day before the dress rehearsal - it was a bit dusty!

Sheila Spencer

This page kindly sponsored by Sheila & Robert Sunderland

EXTRACTS FROM THE HALIFAX COURIER OVER THE YEARS:

SHOW GOES ON (1964)

A local Gilbert and Sullivan show which only a few weeks ago seemed certain to be cancelled will now go on after all. The All Souls' Amateur Operatic Society had already been rehearsing "Trial by Jury" and "H.M.S. Pinafore" for several months when dry rot was discovered in the church hall. The "disease" appeared to have been spreading for about twenty years and gradually affected the roof and floor and all the woodwork, seating, etc. The estimated cost of repairs was a £1000. There seemed no question of setting the hall to rights in time, but three weeks ago, workmen moved in and began ripping out and replacing the dead wood, while each evening members of the society brushed away layers of dust and hopefully continued rehearsing. Yesterday the work was finished, and although the hall has not been redecorated, it is at least fit for use. Tonight the whole company will make the final "big clean-up" and the show will open on time.

THE MIKADO (1967)

FINGERS WERE crossed back stage when the curtain lifted last night on the first of five performances of "The Mikado" by All Souls' Operatic Amateur Society, in the Church Hall, Halifax. With less than a week to go Sheila Milnes, cast as Yum Yum, one of the three sisters, was taken ill and ordered to rest for a week. The problem appeared to be solved when a replacement was found from a neighbouring society which recently gave the same play, but she lost her voice on the eve of the dress rehearsal. Finally, Norma Talbot, who has taken principal roles with All Souls' Amateurs, but was in the chorus this time, volunteered to take over the part. "It was very brave of her to take over the part at the last minute" said one of the Society's business managers, Mrs Margaret Brook.

IOLANTHE (1968)

Many local productions have been indebted over past years to artist Geoffrey Beck, whose scenery is instantly recognizable. Last night's backcloth of the Houses of Parliament was one of his masterpieces, and won a burst of instant applause from the audience as the curtains opened.

SELL-OUT! (1970)

All Souls' have another box office hit with 'Princess Ida'. What is the All Souls' Secret? How does Halifax's smallest Amateur society manage to string together such a succession of full houses, year after year? In 1969 the little church group did 99.7 per cent business with Offenbach's "La Vie Parisienne" - averaging exactly one empty seat at each performance. In 1970, the members are hoping to make it a 100 per cent with the Savoy opera "Princess Ida," which began its six-show run at the Haley Hill schoolroom last night .

TEAM TRIUMPH - Accent on Song (1973)

THE PROGRAMME printed a large number of names, but I did not find it easy to identify the people. Soloists, trios, quartets, etc, sang, but if you ask me who was who, I could not answer. It is a pity because they all sang well. Perhaps, I thought in considering the matter, this incomplete identification reflects a desire to refer everything to the team; and there is certain justification when the society's title is "All Souls'."

THE BEGGAR STUDENT (1991)

IT IS always pleasant when a local society tries something a bit different, and for the show which leads to All Souls' 30th anniversary later in the year this was a good choice. Karl Milllocker's works are not particularly well known in this country, certainly not as well as the likes of Suppe and Offenbach with whom it would be fair to make comparisons. Milllocker was a prolific composer of light operettas in the Viennese style in the latter part of the 19th century, and "The Beggar Prince" was his major hit, becoming popular throughout Europe. Its strength is in its music which is packed full of good tunes, mixing choruses, solos and ensembles with often complex arrangements.

DISASTER FOR ONE OF OUR SOCIETIES (1992)

You could have forgiven Halifax All Souls' A.O.S. for throwing in the towel when their own rehearsal rooms along with their two grand pianos, all their many costumes, props and scenery including that for "Mikado" all ready to go on were destroyed in a devastating fire six weeks from curtain up. The cliché "The show must go on" can have no better example of triumph over adversity. Societies in the area, not all NODA members, rallied round, gave time, rehearsal facilities and anything they could to enable the society to continue. Above all The Halifax Playhouse, home of the Halifax Thespians gave them a clear week to make, put up and paint the two sets of scenery for Mikado. This society normally makes and paints its own scenery with great success but this for Mikado was fantastic, the best I have ever seen them have, thanks to Judith Leeson, a very innovative designer and painter. We of the area wish them every success with everything they undertake in rebuilding from the ashes. **(NODA Scratchings)**

NATIONAL OPERATIC AND DRAMATIC ASSOCIATION

The National Operatic and Dramatic Association (NODA), founded in 1899, is the main representative body for amateur theatre in the UK. It has a membership of some 2,500 amateur/community theatre groups, and 2,500 individual enthusiasts throughout the UK, staging musicals, operas, plays, concerts and pantomimes in a wide variety of performing venues, ranging from the country's leading professional theatres to village halls. Members have access to a wide range of benefits.



NODA is divided into eleven national Regions, each headed by a Region Councillor who sits on 'the Council' (the ruling body of the Association), supported by a network of Regional Representatives and other volunteers. These volunteers are the vital link to the grass roots of the Association, the amateur theatre companies themselves. The Association is administered from its Headquarters in Peterborough, with a knowledgeable and friendly staff able to deal with virtually any enquiry relating to amateur theatre.

There is a broad spectrum of ages involved with amateur theatre nationwide, from a burgeoning number of youth groups to adult companies, which meet the needs of all levels of both performers, whether dramatic or musical, and enthusiasts involved backstage, front of house or in administration. Our local representative is Mrs Jacqui Hartley.

Further information about membership can be obtained from: NODA House, 58-60 Lincoln Road, Peterborough PE1 2RZ. (Tel: 01733 865790 – Fax: 01733 319506 – Email: info@noda.org.uk)

NODA aims:

- To give a shared voice to the amateur theatre sector.
- To help amateur societies and individuals achieve the highest standards of best practice and performance.
- To provide leadership and advice to enable the amateur theatre sector to tackle the challenges and opportunities of the 21st century.

Luddenden Construction Limited

Established in 1988



All building work carried out from foundation to roof.

House conversions/renovations and extensions a speciality.

Planning Permission and Building Regulation requirements drawn up.

We specialise in the use of reclaimed timber and stone.

Kitchens and Bathrooms re-modelled. UPVC doors and windows fitted.

No job too small.

For friendly advice and free estimates call Jim Cheetham on 07906 034775.

JAMES PHOTOGRAPHY

Great Quality at Affordable Prices
www.jamesphotographydigital.co.uk



Portraits
Pet Portraits
Weddings
Events



Mobile home
Portrait Service
Special offer

Four 10x8" photographs £35
on production of this advert.

Tel. 01274 830340 / 07979 863654

Email paul@jamesphotographydigital.co.uk

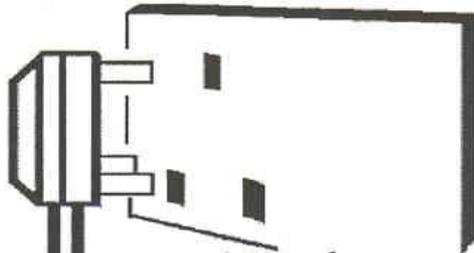
Bradmoor Sticks



For Town and Country

George A Crawshaw

Tel: 01422 244023



Andrew Greenwood

ELECTRICAL SERVICES
INDUSTRIAL. DOMESTIC
ALL WORK GUARANTEED

1 BELLCROSS DRIVE
CLAREMOUNT ROAD
HALIFAX

01422 365508

Mobile Phone 07860 866674

All types of outdoor security and floodlighting. Indoor lighting installations, designed and installed. Fire alarms and emergency lighting. Rewires, extra sockets, etc.

All work carried out by fully-qualified, apprentice-trained tradesman.

— CALL US NOW FOR YOUR FREE QUOTATION —

PROP SHOP

Fancy Dress and Costume Hire.

Unit 5 The Tannery Business Centre
(Behind Booths Furniture and Carpets)
Bradford Road, Northowram, Halifax HX3 7HR
Free car park at rear.

Quality, cleaned garments
Bulk orders for themed events
60,70's,& 80's costumes
Medieval
Fun costumes
Accessories
And much, much more.

Opening times:
Thurs.10.00-8.00pm
Fri.10.00-5.00pm,
Sat.10.00-4.00pm.
Tel: 01422 202933

www.thepropshop.co.uk



Cockroft Timber Ltd

Dundas Street
King Cross
Halifax
HX1 3PQ

Tel: 01422 330137/357728

BUILDING TIMBER,
TRUSSES,
JOINERY SOFTWOOD,
HARDWOOD,
PLANED SOFTWOOD,
MOULDINGS,
PLYWOOD,
BLOCKBOARD, MDF,
CHIPBOARD, HARDBOARD,
DECORATIVE BOARDS

Hipperpottery *homes*

Gardiner Square, Denholme Gate Road, Hipperholme,
Halifax HX3 8LL

Tel: 01422 205158

We offer a vast and eclectic range of goods including Dining Suites, Occasional Furniture, Ceramics, Candles, Handmade Cards, Mirrors, Prints and Great Gift Ideas.

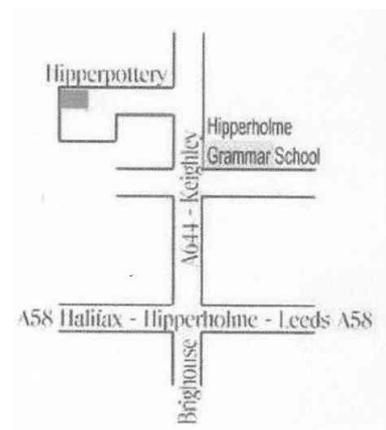
The Subtle and Sophisticated atmosphere of our showrooms encourages people to browse at leisure and be inspired.

Come and see for yourself.

Mon – Sat: 10am – 5pm

Sun: 11am – 4pm

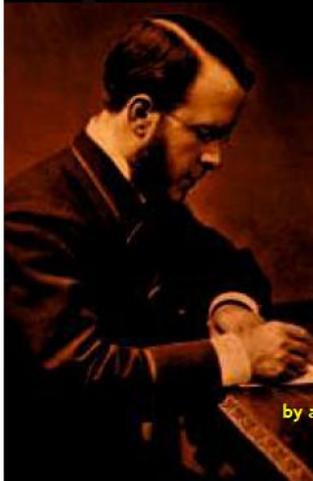
Ample Free Parking



Halifax Light Opera Society
proudly presents the Calderdale amateur
premiere of
Tim Rice and Andrew Lloyd Webber's

The Likes of Us

The debut work from the world's leading musical partnership



The Viaduct Theatre,
Dean Clough, Halifax

Wednesday - Saturday
May 18-21, 2011, 7.30pm
Saturday matinee 2.30pm

Based on the life of Thomas Barnardo

An amateur production
by arrangement with the Really Useful Group Ltd

Tickets £12 & £10
Booking ring 01422 822174
Box office 01422 250250



HALIFAX PLAYHOUSE

HALIFAX THESPIANS PRESENT

JOHN GODBER'S MEN OF THE WORLD

DIRECTED BY ALISTAIR CHEETHAM

7-9 APRIL 2011

EVENINGS AT 7.30PM

2.30PM SATURDAY MATINEE

Preparing for a mystery trip to Scarborough, three coach drivers reminisce about more exciting journeys. A touching, often hilarious, bitter-sweet play. The play will be entered in the Wakefield and Skegness Drama Festivals.



MY BOY JACK

BY DAVID HAIG

DIRECTED BY PAULINE SYKES

10-14 MAY

EVENINGS AT 7.30PM

2.30PM SATURDAY MATINEE

Rudyard Kipling is determined that his teenage son should join the army as an officer to fight in France, despite the boy's poor eyesight. The rest of the family fear for the boy's safety, particularly as the death toll rises and news of the horrific warfare reaches England. 'My Boy Jack' is a very powerful and moving story.



King Cross Street, Halifax HX1 2SH

BOX OFFICE

01422 365998

www.halifaxplayhouse.org.uk

This page kindly sponsored by Wilf & Maureen Franklin

BEHIND THE SCENES:



This page kindly sponsored by Jackie & Michael Sutcliffe

PREVIOUS PRODUCTIONS

1962	The Mikado	1962	La Perichole & Accent on Song
1963	The Pirates of Penzance	1963	The Student Prince
1964	Trial by Jury & HMS Pinafore	1964	Orpheus in the Underworld
1965	The Gondoliers	1965	The Grand Duchess
1966	The Yeomen of the Guard	1966	The Beggar Student & Accent on Song
1967	The Mikado	1967	The Mikado
1968	Iolanthe	1968	The Merry Widow
1969	La Vie Parisienne	1969	Princess Ida
1970	Princess Ida	1970	La Belle Helene
1971	Die Fledermaus	1971	Fiddler on the Roof
1972	Trial by Jury & The Pirates of Penzance	1972	Die Fledermaus
1973	The Gypsy Baron & Accent on Song	1973	The Yeomen of the Guard
1974	Ruddigore	1974	The Count of Luxembourg
1975	The Grand Duchess	2000	Bluebeard
1976	Patience & Accent on Song	2001	Orpheus in the Underworld
1977	The Merry Widow	2002	La Vie Parisienne
1978	The Yeomen of the Guard	2003	The Merry Widow
1979	The Count of Luxembourg	2004	The Beggar Student
1980	The Gondoliers	2005	The Gypsy Baron
1981	La Belle Helene	2006	La Perichole
1982	Die Fledermaus & Accent on Song	2007	Die Fledermaus
1983	Fiddler on the Roof	2008	La Belle Helene
1984	La Vie Parisienne	2009	Fiddler on the Roof
1985	My Fair Lady	2010	Kismet
1986	Ruddigore		

Accidentals:	Wrong notes.
Bar Line:	A gathering of people, usually among which may be found a musician or two.
Conductor:	A musician who is adept at following many people at the same time.
English Horn:	A woodwind that got its name because it's neither English nor a horn. Not to be confused with French horn, which is German.
Fermented Fifth:	What the percussion players keep behind the tympani, which resolves to a 'distilled fifth', which is what the conductor uses backstage.
Harmonic Minor:	A good music student.
Lamentoso:	With handkerchiefs.
Pause:	A short period of time in an individual voice in which there should be relative quiet. Useful when turning pages in the score, breathing, coughing etc.
Score:	A pile of all the individual orchestral voices, transposed to C so that nobody else can understand anything.
Tempus Perfectum:	A good time was had by all.
Vibrato:	Used by singers to hide the fact that they are on the wrong pitch.
Virtuoso:	A musician with very high morals.

FORTHCOMING PRODUCTIONS:



All Souls' Amateur Operatic Society

Formed originally in All Souls' Church and still singing together after 50 years.

Join us in our 50th Anniversary year for a

Concert of Celebration

at

All Souls' Church, Boothtown

on

Sunday 10 July 2011

commencing at

3.00 pm

Accent on Song

6th & 7th October 2011

at Square Chapel,
Centre for the Arts, Halifax

at 7.30 pm

and

8th October 2011

at a venue
to be confirmed,
Free School Lane, Halifax

at 7.30 pm



NEED A GOOD PLASTERER?



**CALL DAVE TODAY ON
07500 040010**

**20 YEARS EXPERIENCE
NO JOB TOO BIG OR TOO SMALL**

**CLEAN AND TIDY
RELIABLE**

REFERENCES AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

GM GASCARE



GAS SAFE REGISTERED ENGINEER

Reg No: 212506

**Central Heating Installations
New Boilers
Repairs
Upgrades
Qualified Solar Engineer
Bathrooms
All other aspects of cold water plumbing**

Contact Glen for a friendly and
professional service:

Mobile: 07815 107457

Home: 01274 873699

Hunsworth & Cleckheaton based Gas Engineer

EW DECORATING SERVICES



**Shepley Village
Interior Decorator**

Tel: 01484 604488

Email: ewdecorating@live.co.uk

ACCENT ON SONG - OCTOBER 2010



Why not come to our rehearsals and meet us all?

We meet on Thursday evenings @ 7.30 pm at The Studio Rooms, St James Street, Halifax.

For more information ring Jean Murphy on 01484 717934 or visit our new website: www.myspace.com/allsouhalifax

Paul Talbot-Greaves



Above: Winter Stream (watercolour)
Right: Late Winter Light (watercolour)



Paul Talbot-Greaves has been the principle artist and set designer for All Souls Amateur Operatic Society for the last eight years. Working with the producer and set builder from concept, initial ideas and colour schemes are worked up then transferred to a scale model which forms the working basis for painting the sets. Members of the cast help out where necessary during the run up to the show.

Paul is a full time artist and a regular contributor and writer for Artists and Illustrators Magazine, Leisure Painter, The Artist Magazine, Paint Magazine and numerous other UK publications. He works mainly in watercolour but also uses oils and acrylics as painting mediums. As well as producing four teaching art DVDs, he has written four books on the subject of watercolour painting - 'Watercolour for starters' is published by David and Charles (2004), '30 Minute Landscapes' published by Walter Foster, USA (2008), '30 Minute Landscapes in Watercolour' published by Harper Collins (2009) and 'Landscapes in Watercolour' published by Crowood Press (2009). Some of his work is also published in 'Watercolour layer-by-layer' (Walter Foster, USA) and his DVDs are often screened on Sky painting & drawing channel. Paul has been teaching and lecturing on the subject of watercolour painting for the last twelve years.

- **Original Paintings**
 - **Prints**
 - **Books**
 - **DVDs**
- **Art Materials**
- **Portraits**
- **Commissions**
 - **Courses**
 - **Workshops**
- **Painting Breaks**
- **Talks & Demonstrations**

To learn more go to www.talbot-greaves.co.uk
Tel: 01422 243516