



President: Ken Hick

Trustees:-

K. Sivyver Tel: 01267 290346 (Home) (incl. Answerphone) EMail: kevinsivyver@btinternet.com Address: Waunyrewig, Nantgaredig, Carmarthen, South Wales. SA32 7PG

D. Francis Tel: 023 9261 3807 Email: HEATLEW@aol.com

L. Kent Tel: 023 9237 3286 Email: laurie_kent54@hotmail.com

N. Smith 2 Dover, Close, Fareham, Hants. PO14 3SU Tel: 01329 665170, EMail: nigel@doverclose.fsnet.co.uk Mobile phone: 07961 373645

Website:- www.operacomique.org.uk

Dear All

I must start by saying a huge 'thank you' to everyone who was able to be with us in Grims Dyke on Sunday 18 November – I was extremely pleased to have your company and support for a very special event.

I hope you all enjoyed being together and performing in an iconic setting as much as I did - it was a strangely emotional time for me. While we could have had a larger audience, those that were there were very appreciative and I am pleased to report that not only were we able to hand over £200 to the NSPCC but Grims Dyke management were so impressed with our performance that we are being asked back again in the future.

I have also to reflect on a special year – one which has allowed me to reunite with many dear friends, with whom I have had the pleasure of performing the wonderful works of Gilbert and Sullivan in a variety of venues in different parts of the world.

I rather think we now know something about 'Iolanthe' – having performed it so many times during the year with a selection of talented principals along the South coast – it has been a real pleasure. It was also very special for me to present a cup – known as the 'Trower Trophy' – to NODA at the Berry theatre in October, to commemorate the life of one of our founder members, great friend and supporter Richard (Dick) Trower. This trophy will be presented annually to the best G&S production in NODA SE region, so we all have something to aim for!

Those of us who travelled to the US in August made new friends in Sudbury, Mass and had another magical time in Mystic Seaport. There is talk of a number of our US friends coming over some time in the new year. I am sure we can fit in a 'scratch' concert with them as necessary.

Throughout it all I - and we - have had the support of undoubtedly one of the best accompanists possible in Nigel and I cannot thank him enough for all his work on and off stage for me and Opera Comique – treasure him!!

Recently we have updated our charitable status and now have Laurie Kent along with Nigel, David and myself as Trustees. I am also delighted to confirm that we have selected Ken Hick as our honorary President – Ken is a founder member with a long and distinguished history in G&S and will be a worthy representative of Opera Comique. This means we have a group of people with a wide variety of expertise and theatrical experience at our helm, which will be of great benefit for the future.

Speaking of which, potential plans for 2013 are being developed as follows:

- 20 April Weekend visit to Chester staying with Tim Holmes' Rotary Club members, performing selection (as per Grims Dyke) with local Operatic Society for Rotary charity
- 27 April: Sorcerer (concert version) - Talley(near Llandeilo) linked with local participants.
- 20 July: Concert in Petersfield
- September 17 – 21: **The Opera Comique G&S Festival in Berry Theatre, Hedge End**, with other Southern area societies, performing a selection of operas - Opera Comique '**Yeomen of the Guard**' on **Saturday 21 September**.

Dates for all the above will be confirmed asap but we will need to have a meeting early in the year – **Saturday 2 February, St Andrew's Church Hall, Farlington 10.00am – 1.30pm** - to firm up on details, especially those for the September festival, which has long been an aim of mine. Please try to attend this important meeting and bring with you a copy of the score of Yeomen of the Guard.

Thank you all once again for your talent and friendship during the last year and indeed over fifty years – here's to many more years of togetherness

Much love and best wishes for Christmas and the New Year!

Kevin