

# Newsletter

No:7

Winter 1991

## THE CHAIRMAN WRITES...

It was a great shock to us all to learn of the death of our very dear friend Tom Ashcroft. A man respected and loved by so many people from many walks of life. But what a wonderful tribute the Thanksgiving Service was! – just as Tom would have wished it to be. Our thoughts and prayers must be with Ruth and the family at this sad time.

The show must go on! Welcome to the new season and particularly to our new members, we hope that you will all enjoy working with us. To those of you who were successful with the auditions – congratulations! – to those who were disappointed – give your best in the Chorus and better luck next time! It's good to have David Rees in the company – an 'old hand' with plenty of experience with a number of societies.

Two weddings in the Society since our last newsletter. Gifts were presented to Janet and Jim (Barley) and Janet and George (Robinson) with our best wishes. They say things go in threes! – when's the next one?

Do make a special effort to come to the Christmas Party at Wensum Lodge this year – details appear elsewhere – but it is always a super event. 'Chef Barrie' will be in charge of the food and we shall again be arranging some 'Ad Hoc' entertainment.

Enjoy a good season.

David Thompson

## ...AND THE PRODUCER

May I first congratulate all members who offered themselves as principals for this seasons productions, 'Trial' and 'Sorcerer'. A very high standard was presented at auditions making the task of casting the shows a difficult but very pleasant one.

Rehearsal time for the productions is precious and considering we are producing two operettas, comparatively short. I shall endeavour to pack in as much 'action' as possible and would ask that everyone attends every rehearsal to which they are called bringing along with them a PENCIL!

I shall be looking to 'characterise' all cast in both productions. In 'Sorcerer' members of the chorus will be given a character from Soldiers, Ladies, Gentlemen, Waiters, Waitresses, Footmen, Tradespeople and Farm Worker. In 'Trial' I shall be looking to the Jury and the Public to come from all walks of life. These shows have tremendous potential for chorus members to be individuals!, but will give wardrobe a headache – so please bear with us!

Above all else enjoy yourselves – come to rehearsals prepared and ready to work but have 'fun', 'fun', 'fun'. That's what it's all about!

Trevor Thurston

Principals for 1992 Productions as follows:-

### TRIAL BY JURY

The Learned Judge ..... Alan Willoughby  
The Plaintiff..... Janet Robinson  
The Defendant..... John Bill  
Counsel..... Ken Davis  
Usher ..... Andrew Mitchell  
Foreman of the Jury ..... Stephen Capper

### THE SORCERER

Sir Marmaduke Pointdextre..... John Clack  
Alexis..... David Rees  
Dr. Daly..... Ken Davis  
Notary ..... Harry Headden  
John Wellington Wells..... David Ivins  
Lady Sangazure..... Pam Warren  
Aline ..... Beverley McInnes  
Mrs. Partlet..... Barrie Marshall  
Constance ..... Jane Mack

### BOOKING

The Booking Office for members and VPs will open on Monday, 24th February and for the general public on Monday, 2nd March.

### SUMMARY OF RECENT EVENTS

During the Summer months the Society performed 'G & S For All' at St. Andrew's Hall and Cromer Pier. There was another successful Bar-B-Q at Witton Hall (and the weather stayed fine!). More recently another enjoyable trip to London arranged by Sheila, this time to see 'Aspects'.

### CHRISTMAS PARTY

The Christmas Party is on Saturday, 21st December at Wensum Lodge, King Street, from 7.30 pm. Tickets, £4.50 are available from Sheila Tuffield.

There will be 'Ad Hoc' entertainment provided by our own members. If you would like to do a 'turn', (the more volunteers the better), please let me know. Jenny

### CONGRATULATIONS TO....

Robin and Hilary Baines on the Birth of their son, Richard William on 7th September.

### PHOTOCOPYING

Members are reminded that the Society photocopier is available to be used! See Jenny for details.

## TOM ASHCROFT

The death of Tom, a Vice-President of our Society, brought to an end an association which began in 1960 when he played Ralph Rackstraw in H.M.S. Pinafore. From then on Tom's name was to appear regularly in our programmes playing leading roles including Richard Dauntless (Ruddigore), Jack Point (Yeomen), John Wellington Wells (Sorcerer) and Ko-Ko (Mikado).

His contribution did not stop there as he has been a Chorus Member, Producer, Committee Member and Chairman. We also had the benefit of Tom's creative and artistic skills in building and painting scenery and props. Our Society was not the only beneficiary of this multi-talented man with a fine tenor voice. He took part in many ways in the County's entertainment since moving to Norfolk some 40 years ago. His name appeared in many programmes including those of Norfolk & Norwich AOS, Dereham Operatic, Phoenix Players, Townswomen's Guild productions and various concerts.

The true example of the busy man to go to when you want something done, Tom never wasted a minute of his life and served the community in many ways particularly through his support and dedication to the work of the British Legion.

Above all it was the friendship radiated by Tom that endeared him to so many – we shall miss him greatly.

We extend our deepest sympathy to Ruth and the family and hope they may be comforted by the many happy memories our Tom leaves behind.

David Kett

### CALENDAR 1991/2

- **December 15th**  
Carol Singing – Wroxham Barns
- **December 17th**  
'Beanfeast' – after rehearsals
- **December 19th**  
Carol Singing around Wroxham and Hoveton
- **December 21st**  
Christmas Party – Wensum Lodge
- **January 2nd**  
Principal Rehearsals Begin
- **January 7th**  
Chorus Rehearsals re-commence
- **February 24th**  
Box Office Opens for members and VPs
- **April 20th – 25th**  
Show Week