Richard’s Ramblings

My second year as Chairman started quietly, thank goodness, with no reported injuries on the evening of the AGM! It was sad to hear, however, of the death of Des Rowley, a former member, and wife of life member Geraldine. His funeral will take place at 1.00pm Monday 24th April at Cheltenham Crematorium. Our thoughts are with Geraldine at this time. On a happier note, Pat and I were pleased to announce the arrival of Freya Isabel Hensley on 16th March, a daughter to Kirsten Schofield and Adrian Hensley, and our fifth grandchild – Kirsten’s first!

Another happy note was the 70th wedding anniversary of one of our life members, Ted Furber, on 29th March, who recently reached the ripe old age of 94, and who still sings with the Rondo Singers.

Yet another happy note was the announcement that Fiona Gordon-Smith is pregnant. We are happy for her and wish her well – but, sadly, she will be unable to be in Broadway Pirates. We will miss her, but it’s all in a good cause!

The AGM saw the retirement of Donald Maxwell as Society President – we will miss him. However, we are pleased to welcome Marilyn Hill-Smith as our new President – “Britain’s Queen of Operetta”. We look forward to seeing her soon, once she recovers from a knee replacement operation which stopped her from attending the AGM. What is it about The Cotswold Savoyards and AGMs?!

Hannah Boydell stood down from the committee at the AGM, due to other conflicting commitments – thank you, Hannah, for your unfailing enthusiasm and your speedy minute-taking and spreadsheet skills! Welcoming new blood, Hannah has been replaced on the committee by Neal Carter-Lewis, who we hope will contribute his musical expertise to our discussions on future shows. For those of you who missed the Burns Night Supper, we all had a wonderful time, thoroughly enjoying the meal, the entertainment and the venue - The Aviator at Staverton.

For those of you who missed the RECAST Concert extravaganza organised by Aimée Sullivan at All Saints Academy in January, you missed a wonderful evening’s music which raised £1,700 for charity.

And now for Broadway Pirates. We’ve run both acts without books and now just need to refine it over the next five weeks before we get on stage at the Everyman. It should be a cracker. Keep working at it, everyone. Get those flyers out and let’s make it the success it deserves to be! We do still need help during show week with props, prompting and make-up, however. Please sign up now!

Oh, and A Little Night Music Open Day is on 11th June at St. Luke’s Hall, Cheltenham. Put it in your diaries now. Principal auditions are planned for Sunday 2nd July, with pre-audition rehearsals on 13th, 20th and 27th June.

It’s going to be a busy spring and summer, isn’t it? And we may have a concert to put together for September – watch this space!

Keep singing! Keep enjoying!

Richard Schofield
the very model of a modern parish minister

From Jo Scriven comes this rewrite of the Major-General’s song from Pirates, and which originally featured on the BBC’s Archers website, written by a Mr. Snowy.

I am the very model of a modern parish minister,  
You’ll find me non-judgmental, I would never damn the sinister,  
I don’t go in for hell-fire, no; on right and wrong I’m flexible  
As long as I’m bang up to date; on that I am inex’rable.
I’ve taken up each trendy cause, I’ve filled the manse with down-and-outs,  
I’m very good at counselling (I say “It’s swings and roundabouts”).  
It won’t be long till I’ve removed all pews from the vicinity,  
But please don’t press me hard about the meaning of the Trinity.

Oh, please don’t press him hard about the meaning of the Trinity (x3).  
Oh, please don’t press him hard about the meaning of the Trini-trinity.

I’ve modernised our services, we’re singing Graham Kendrick songs,  
I will not rest until we’re all performing Jimi Hendrix songs,  
I must replace the organist now he’s octogenarian,  
I rather fancy someone who has leanings Rastafarian.  
I get about by motor-bike, my attitude is ü ber-cool,  
I love to turn each female’s head, you really should see Shula drool,  
And though the village dinosaurs might find my actions sinister,  
I am the very model of a modern parish minister.

And though the village dinosaurs might find his actions sinister,  
He is the very model of a modern parish minister.

I’m practised in accountancy, my parish funds are watertight,  
I won’t offend the upper-class (however much my daughter might),  
Though I detest their politics, they’re rather good at giving dough,  
I’ll even schmooze the frightful Peg, what I’ll do for a living-oh.  
I’ve got a view on everything from strawberries to pesticides,  
From how we should dispose of poo to skylark nests and set-aside,  
I’ll speak on how to save the whale, the best ways of preserving Earth,  
As long as I am never asked about such things as Virgin Birth.

As long as he is never asked about such things as Virgin Birth (x3)  
As long as he is never asked about such things as Virgin, Virgin Birth.

Of sins I am forgiving, I will not condemn philandering,  
In various translations from Hungarian to Mandarin,  
And though the village dinosaurs might find my actions sinister,  
I am the very model of a modern parish minister.

And though the village dinosaurs might find his actions sinister,  
He is the very model of a modern parish minister.

I am the very model of a modern parish minister,  
I welcome all inside my church, the righteous and the sinister,  
I’m truly ecumenical, inclusive of the heathens here,  
There’s one who’ll says she’ll marry me - we’ve gone and booked St. Stephens, dear!  
The Echo now has stirred things up, it’s picking up some vocal taints,  
It’s rooted out the choicest quotes, from shopkeepers and local saints,  
But now it’s run this story and I have to say it’s utter tripe,  
God help Ross Adams when I get my hands upon that guttersnipe.  
Perhaps I’ll knock his block off; they might find it out in Finisterre.  
Will Ross regret his mocking of a modern parish minister?
Executive Committee (The Major-Generals)

President - Marilyn Hill-Smith
Chairman - Richard Schofield
Vice-Chairman - Paul Chesworth
Secretary - Lisa Crowhurst
Treasurer - Sue Pawley
Publicity Manager - Sheila Ham
Executive Committee Members - Neal Carter-Lewis, Paul Chesworth, Alan Flint, Penny Lewis, David Manifold
Minutes Secretary - Paul Chesworth
Patrons’ Secretary - Pat Schofield
New Members’ Secretary - Lisa Crowhurst
Welfare - Penny Lewis

SOCIETY OFFICERS FOR 2017 - 2018

The Late Arrivals

* From County Donegal the rather effeminate pirate PAUL O’PAUL the pirate fairy, and his friend, the police informer PHIL O’PHIL the pirate grass.
* From Penzance, the extremely fortunate pirate AUSPICIOUS LEE
* From pantoland: CAPTAIN HOOK, his brother DOCTOR HOOK & SYLVIA'S MOTHER
* The notorious Welsh pirate, CAPTAIN HENRY MORGAN, his half-brother, the discredited merchant banker MORGAN STANLEY, is other half-brother LEONARD STANLEY, who is a direct relation of MAJOR GENERAL STANLEY
* The pirate who always wears thermal underwear, because he feels the cold so terribly - LONG JOHN SHIVER
* The rather glamorous French pirate and good-time girl JOLIE ROGER
* From Cadiz POOR WANDERING JUAN
* The much-feared pirate BLACKBEARD, his elderly mother-in-law BLUE RINSE and his half-cousin, and now our Chairman, RICHARD WHITEBEARD
* A (very) late Norwegian Blue parrot
* The world-famous composer JACQUES ORPHANBACH
* I THORA TART

* The pirates’ lucky cat Fred, and Fred’s identical twin, a cat like Fred
* Finally, one of the Stanley sisters, either KATE or EDITH. We were hoping they would both be able to attend, but then we remembered, especially in these difficult days of Brexit: you can’t have your KATE & EDITH.

“A pretty rowdy crowd” (Michael Flanders)

Dai Barker

NEWS OF OUR MEMBERS

TED & BARBARA FURBER
Our sincerest congratulations to Life Member Ted Furber and his wife Barbara on reaching the incredible milestone of their 70th wedding anniversary, and who now join the limited number of distinguished members of The Platinum Club - soon to include the Queen and Prince Phillip, who will be inducted on 20th November this year.

KIRSTEN SCHOFIELD & ADRIAN HENSLEY
Congratulations to both on the arrival of a daughter, Freya Isabel, born on 16th March, and a fifth grandchild to Richard and Pat.
I’ve picked out one word from each musical item in The Pirates of Penzance – Chappell edition. Tell me what they are! They all start with a letter from PIRATES.

**ACT 1**
1. _I_N_L_Z_N_
2. _E_F_R_N_
3. _A_C_I_O_I_U_
4. _C_U_U_A_I_G_
5. _E_I_H_
6. _R_C_E_I_G_
7. _U_O_D_N_T_
8. _E_R_C_
9. _R_P_I_T_
10. _X_E_D_N_
11. _A_S_N_F_E_
12. _A_S_
13. _N_M_L_U_O_S_
14. _N_O_E_T_

**ACT 2**
1. _Y_P_T_E_I_
2. _D_E_T_R_
3. _O_T_L_S_
4. _E_E_T_E_T_
5. _A_A_O_
6. _N_U_S_
7. _P_A_L_N_
8. _U_R_M_
9. _N_E_S_B_E_
10. _M_T_E_
11. _P_R_A_H_N_
12. _R_S_R_E_
13. _O_M_N_E_
14. _N_A_I_B_E_

Solution to the Winter 2017 puzzle:

**Names**
Stanley, Mabel, Edith, Isabel, Ruth

**Titles**
Astronomer, Maid, Pilot, Pirate, King, Police, Queen

The remaining 44 letters spell the following names and titles

**Names:** HELIOGABULUS, CARADOC, VICTORIA

**Titles:** SERGEANT, COMMANDER

One correct solution was received from none other than Ted Furber, and a suitable bottle of plonk is on its way to complement his 70th wedding anniversary celebrations.

Congratulations (again), Ted!

**THOUGHT FOR THE DAY**
The early bird gets the worm, but it’s the second mouse that gets the cheese.
future productions

NEXT UP:

16th - 20th May 2017 @ The Everyman Theatre, Cheltenham

The Cotswold Savoyards present

“The Pirates of Penzance”

Tuesday 16 to Saturday 20
May 2017

17th & 18th, 21st - 25th November 2017,
Playhouse Theatre, Cheltenham

A Little Night Music

Music and lyrics by Stephen Sondheim
Stage Director: Caroline Young  Musical Director: Sue Black

15th - 20th May 2018, Everyman Theatre, Cheltenham

MY FAIR LADY

Music and lyrics by Alan Lerner and Frederick Loewe
Stage and Musical Directors to be announced

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AND FINALLY...

Police are desperately searching for a man who steals the ends of news items. The man is described as tall, with grey hair and spectacles and a very large

PRECIOUS NONSENSE

The Summer 2017 edition will appear in July or August.
Please send any articles for inclusion before the end of June.

www.cotswoldsavoyards.com