

# PROMPT CORNER

## The newsletter of Sidmouth Arts Club Operatic Society May 2011

### Half a Sixpence

It is always a bit worrying to do a show which has the reputation of being poor box office. However, when the committee saw the new version of Half a Sixpence, with some super new songs and in which the libretto has been sharpened up, they thought it was worth trying. After all, there is a limit to the number of times you can do "Carousel" in ten years. Gladly this proved a good decision. The show (in old and new versions) relies very heavily on the talents of the leading man and in this we were very lucky to have Alec Fellows-Bennett to play the part. He put a zest into Kipps which gave the show real zing. This will be the last time that Alec performs with the society although he is, of course, directing "Iolanthe". In the autumn Alec is leaving Sidmouth to continue his professional acting career and we wish him every success. One day, when he gets his name in lights, we will be able to say "I've performed with him"!

We must not forget Jess either. She showed what a true trouper she is through a very difficult personal week. Well done Jess.



We achieved an overall box office of 89%, not quite a record, but well up with leading shows of the past few years so I think we can regard it as a very satisfactory result. There is no doubt that we have a very loyal following which comes from the high standard we have attained in recent years. It is too early to give a financial result for the show but it looks as though we shall break even.



### Iolanthe

Rehearsals for our next show start on Monday May 30th. The show is under the direction of Alec Fellows-Bennett and our musical director will Dorothy Worthington. Dorothy last worked for us when we did Anything Goes. Geraldine Barnett will be our choreographer. If you are not familiar with this Gilbert & Sullivan show rest assured there will be lots of singing, chorus work and major and minor principal roles.

The story may seem fey with fairies and peers but the underlying story is very apposite today as it proposes the abolition of the House of Lords. Yes, even some Victorians thought it would be a good idea!

### Next year's shows

What of the future you might ask. Your committee are always planning into the future. Shows have to be booked well ahead with rights holders and good people must be found to produce, musically direct and choreograph. We have obtained the rights to perform "Oklahoma" in spring 2012 and "The Sound of Music" in autumn 2012. Both of these shows have recently been re-released for amateurs and should be very popular with both the company and the public.

### Subscriptions

Subscriptions will be due on August 1st and will remain the same as last year, £15 for acting membership, £10 for Associate membership, £5 for Junior membership and £20 for family membership. Subs to Selwyn please at Littlecourt Cottages, Seaford Road, Sidmouth EX10 8HF.

### And finally .....

Many critics were underwhelmed by Jerry Hall's nude turn as Mrs Robinson in the West End production of "The Graduate," chief among them *London Daily Express* theatre critic Robert Gore-Langton. "Frankly," he declared of the publicity engendered by the performance, "it's a storm in an A-cup."

