

Let's all go down ... to Gasperich Parish Hall!

 Pamela Carlisle

Since the beginning of history wandering minstrels, acrobats, jugglers and entertainers have played their role in keeping people happy in their leisure hours. During medieval times artistes would entertain worshippers and pilgrims as they waited outside abbeys and cathedrals on feast-days; from this tradition St Bartholomew's Fair, in London, was established during the 12th century and continued – with every kind of entertainment, from ballad singer to freak – until 1855.

By the middle of the 19th century shows were performed inside rather than out in the open, many of them in makeshift theatres where the patrons sat on wooden benches, paying a penny to see what in many cases was somewhat dubious entertainment. As time went on, however, the standard both of the theatres and the entertainment provided improved in quality and gradually what we now think of as the "good old days" of variety entertainment emerged. "Song-and-supper" rooms began to flourish around the 1830s – in London, particularly in the West End and around the Strand; in all but name they were variety theatres with a small stage on which an assortment of vocal and comic

entertainment went on under the chairmanship of a popular host. The big difference between a song-and-supper room and a theatre was that, in the former, the patrons were seated at tables with food and drink available.

At the end of this month, Pirate Productions will be following in this tradition, presenting a Music Hall for three evenings, from Thursday 24 to Saturday 26 April. Whilst we can't promise acrobats or jugglers, there will be a variety of entertainment, including dancing, recitations and songs, and, of course, a chance for the audience to join in a traditional "singalong".

During the second half of the programme there will be a performance of "Cox and Box", a short one-act comic opera with music by Arthur Sullivan, based on the 1847 farce "Box and Cox" by John Maddison Morton. "Cox and Box" tells the story of what happens when Cox – who rents a room from Bouncer and who is out all day – meets Box, who also rents a room from Bouncer but is out all night; they subsequently discover that not only do they both pay rent for the same room, they're also engaged to the same lady, and ...

but saying any more would give the game away!

The evening will be compered by Graham Fairfax-Jones; Liz Turner and Alan Carlisle will be tinkling the ivories and in true Variety Show tradition the audience will sit at tables with drinks and home-made refreshments (sandwiches, cakes, etc.) available. Please feel free to dress up in your finest furs and feathers – who

knows, you might win a bottle of schampes!

Pirate Productions Music Hall
Thursday 24 – Saturday 26 April, at 8 pm (doors open at 7.30 pm)
Gasperich Parish Hall, rue de Gasperich
Tickets: 15 euros for adults, 10 euros for students. Call Pamela Carlisle on tel. 356 339 or email musichall@sarumlux.net



WIN!

352 is offering 2 free tickets for the show, on an evening of their choice, to one lucky reader. To enter, simply answer this question:

Which French painter was famous for his paintings of Can-Can dancers?

Send your answer by email to: info@352.lu mentioning "Moulin Rouge" as the subject line and stating your preferred date. Deadline for entries is noon on Friday 18 April.



*Pirate Productions
Presents*

*See the famous
Can - can*

MUSIC-HALL

*Refreshments
served
at your table*

Featuring

COX and BOX

by

*Mr F C Burnand
and*

Mr Arthur Sullivan



*Wear your
finest feathers
and win a prize*

*Come along
and sing*

Gasperich Hall 24th to 26th April 2008 at 8p.m.

Doors open at 7-30pm

Tickets: 15 euro (students 10 euro)

Telephone 356339 or e-mail musichall@sarumlux.net









