

# RUM GOINGS-ON AS THE PIRATES OF PENZANCE CAPTURE OPERA HOUSE



The Pirates of Penzance was the 2019 production enjoyed by opera-lovers in Tunbridge Wells.

Opera House, our pub in the Kent town, which reverts to its original use at least once every year, hosted two performances of Gilbert and Sullivan's opera, performed by the touring Merry Opera Company.

The latest production dished up a cocktail of Victorian light party fun, with a twist of Merry Opera, together with plenty of swash-buckling sentimental pirates, blundering policemen, absurd adventures, improbable paradoxes and realistic women!

A sell-out audience enjoyed either the matinée or Sunday evening show in seats from the balcony (no dining) or from boxes or stall seats with preshow dining included in the ticket price.

The event, organised every year by Sam Stone, shift manager at Opera House, was compèred, as ever, by Merry Opera's host Rodney Crouch (pictured).

Past shows have included *The Marriage of Figaro*, *The Magic Flute*, *La bohème* and *Kiss Me, Figaro!*

The original theatre, The Opera House, opened in 1902, built by the firm of John Jarvis, with the architect JP Briggs.

It later became a cinema and then bingo hall, opening as a Wetherspoon pub in April 1997.

Sam said: "We were pleased to welcome the Merry Opera Company back again to Opera House for our annual opera – always eagerly anticipated.

"The show is much loved, by staff and customers alike, and enjoyed with so much enthusiasm – an annual highlight for everyone involved."

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