



PINAFORE SAILS INTO TOWN

The crew of the H.M.S. Pinafore take a break from rehearsals to pose for a photograph. The production by Burton Operatic Society opens tomorrow night and runs for the rest of this week at Wulfric Lower School, Horninglow, and all tickets are sold. Pictured from left to right are: Alan Thompspon as Sir Joseph Porter; Mike Morley as Carpenter; Ivor Betteridge as Captain Corcoran; Betty Booth as Josephine; Adrian Bader as Ralph Rackstraw; Joan Burman as Mrs. Cripps (Buttercup); John Stuart at Boatswain and Bill Taylor as Dick Deadeye.

Smooth launch for perfect Pinafore

THERE was a smooth launch last night for Burton Operatic Society's HMS Pinaford at Lower Wulfric School. And whatever storms Shella Webber had to weather in this, her first shot at production it was plain sailing on the night.

As Ruler of the King's navy Alan Thompson gave an enjoyable performance. His When I Was a Lad was superb — every word of this deliciously satirical song came over perfectly. His dancing and clowning in Never Mind the Why and Wherefore were delightfully comic.

Elizabeth Booth and Adrian Bader, the captain's daughter and common sailor with whom she fell in love, sang with all the melancholy, audacity, haughtiness and romantic joy that their songs required and were warmly applauded by a receptive audience.

It was good to see Joan Burman in a part worthy of her talents. As Little Buttercup she had more scope than in many past roles. An expressive performance was highlighted by her Things Are Seldom What They Seem duet with Ivor Betteridge, who gave a restrained, convincing portrayal of the captain.

Bill Taylor as the repellent, able seaman Dick Deadeye was as well, as repellent as Gilbert and Sullivan intended.

There was splendid singing from the sailors of the chorus (and the first Lord's cousins and his sisters and his aunts), while as ever the orchestra under the baton of Myra Mesaritis gave a faultless performance.

The show continues until Saturday — but all seats were sold weeks ago.