

Girl Next Door comes home after 50 years

THE GIRL Next Door, which is to be performed this month by the Abbots Langley Gilbert and Sullivan Society, is a musical comedy set in Abbots-in-the-Langley and written in the 1950s by Peter Vincent and Alan Vening when they were students at Cambridge. It was performed at the Cambridge Corn Exchange by the Cambridge Footlights when Alan was the musical director but, apart from a slimmed down concert version, has not been staged fully since then.

Alan Vening is ALGSS' pianist and organist/choirmaster at St Lawrence church in Abbots Langley.

Peter lives in Radlett and went on to write for *The Dave Allen Show*, *The Two Ronnies*, *The Brittas Empire* and numerous other famous BBC comedies. Peter will



Russell Stratton perfects his role

be coming to see the show and Alan will be playing piano at the performances.

"We wrote *The Girl Next Door* more than 50 years ago," recalls Peter. "Alan Vening is a great, distinguished musician. I'm getting a ticket for it and I hope they have fun with it."

The Girl Next Door is set in the semi-fictional village of Abbots-in-the-Langley and concerns events leading up to and including the presentation of a lost G&S opera at the village carnival. The show is directed by Abbots Langley resident and award winning director Andrew Taylor.

Andrew says: "We're presenting it as a cabaret evening. It was fully scripted by Alan and Peter while they were at



Cabaret time: Society members in rehearsal

Cambridge and Alan very kindly helped produce the material for me. It's a project that we first thought about putting together a few years ago but it has sat on the shelf for a number of years.

"I can't think of a more fitting tribute to Alan's help by performing one of his works and it's an absolute hoot from start to finish.

"It might be 50 years old but it's still fresh and new and audiences will go away humming the songs and wondering why they haven't seen it before."

● ALGSS performs Peter Vincent and Alan Vening's

The Girl Next Door, set in Abbots-in-the-Langley, at the Henderson Hall from Wednesday, July 2 to Saturday, July 5 at 7.45pm with a 2.30pm matinee on Saturday. Tickets: 0845 644 0635 or www.algss.org.uk