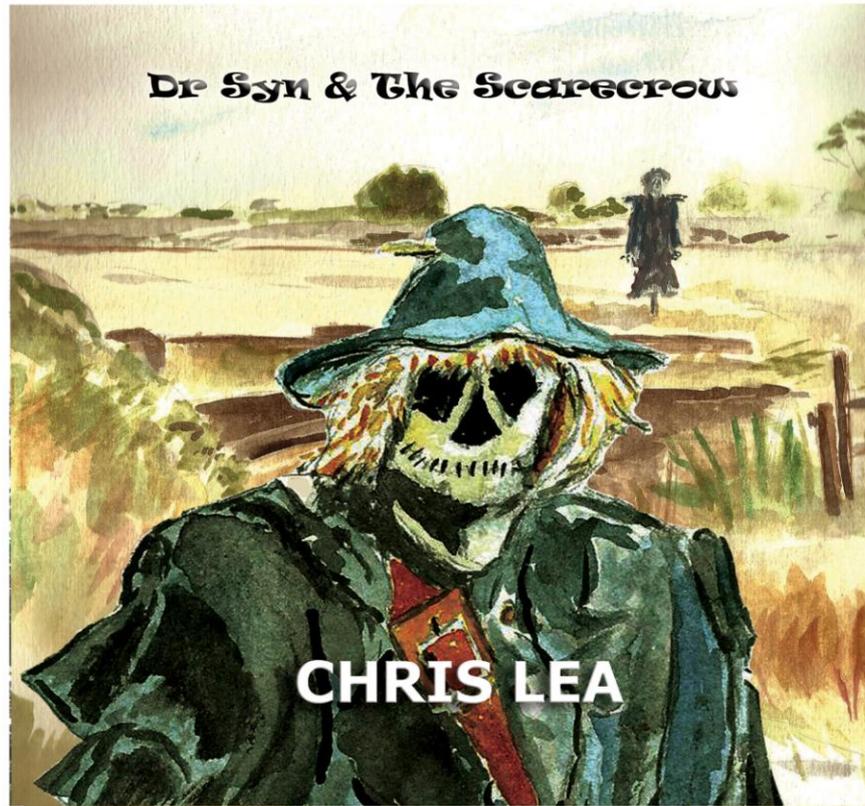


Doctor Syn and The Scarecrow



A musical by

Chris Lea

<p><u>Scene 9</u></p> <p>The Beach – late at night</p> <p>Smugglers on the beach caught by dragoons. They are held up by The Scarecrow. The dragoons are disarmed and sent on their way. After barrels are moved and men dismissed Scarecrow is cornered by Captain Faunce. (helped by Merry). Faunce is disarmed by the Curlew (Charlotte) and sent away, just before Mipps returns (who would otherwise have been watching Scarecrow's back).</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">“</p> <p><i>A Girl Could Fall</i> 3 Charlotte and 1Syn <i>What Kind of Man is this</i> 3 Charlotte, 5&6 harmonies</p> <p><i>Another Time Gentlemen</i> 8&9 Dragoons, 1 Scarecrow, 10 Capt Faunce, 7 Merry (unspoken) 3 Curlew (Charlotte), 4,5,6,11,12 Smugglers, 2 Mipps.</p>
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<p><u>ACT II</u></p> <p><u>Scene 1</u></p> <p>Romney Marsh/beach</p> <p><u>Scene 2</u></p> <p>Lympne Castle (interior) Argument between Sir Henry Pembury & Tony</p> <p><u>Scene 3</u></p> <p>The Marsh at night.</p> <p><u>Scene 4</u></p> <p>Lympne Castle interior/Town Square</p> <p><u>Scene 5</u></p> <p>Dr Syn's Study</p> <p>Discussion between Mipps & Syn on risks & increased penalties. Mrs Waggets then confronts Mipps</p> <p><u>Scene 6</u></p> <p>The Barn</p> <p><u>Scene 7</u></p> <p>Dr Syn's Study</p>	<p><u>Musical Numbers</u> (Numbers represent cast members)</p> <p><i>Captain Clegg's 'Quaint old Capstan Song' Reprise</i> 1 Scarecrow, 2,4,7,8,9,10,11,12 Chorus</p> <p><i>Sir Henry Pembury</i> 9 Pembury, 8 Tony, 1 Syn, 5 Kate and 12 Brackenbury.</p> <p><i>Mr Brackenbury's Engagement</i> 9 Pembury, 1 Syn/Scarecrow, 2 Mipps, 12 Brackenbury, 3,6,7,10,11 Dragoons & Smugglers in disguise, 4 The Tub Carrier (Narrator), 5 Kate.</p> <p>“</p> <p>“</p> <p><i>A Gazetted Man</i> 2 Mipps, 1 Syn, 5 Mrs Waggets</p> <p><i>Brazlett's Departure – Stranger at The Ship</i></p> <p><i>Brazlett's Departure - Ribbons and Petticoats</i></p> <p>“</p> <p>2 Mipps, 3,5,6 'church' choir, 3.5.6 girls 1 Syn/Scarecrow, 4 Tub Carrier, 9,11,12 locals, 10 Brazlett, 7 Fragg, 8 Tony.</p>
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<p><u>Scene 8</u></p> <p>Widow Ransley's House –</p>	<p><i>The Widow of Bonnington 1</i> 1 Syn, 5 Widow Ransley</p>
<p><u>Scene 9</u></p> <p>Outside –</p>	<p><i>The Raid on Poole Quay.</i> 11 Ransley Snr, 4,7,8,9,10,12 Smuggler chorus</p>
<p><u>Scene 10</u></p> <p>Widow Ransley's House</p>	<p><i>The Widow of Bonnington 2</i> 5 Widow, 1 Syn, 4 Tub Carrier, 9,7,6 harmony/chorus</p>
<p><u>Scene 11</u></p> <p>The Court Room</p>	<p><i>The Widow of Bonnington 2 - The Ransley Trial</i> 8 Judge, 1 Syn/Scarecrow, 11,12,10 Ransleys, 2 Mipps, 3 Charlotte.</p>
<p><u>Scene 12</u></p> <p>The Sea Wall</p>	<p><i>Like Penelope</i> 6 Meg Clouder, 5 Mrs Waggetts, 5,3,8,9 backing vocals</p>
<p><u>Scene 13</u></p> <p>The beach – late at night</p>	<p><i>The Four Hadleys</i></p>
<p><u>Scene 14</u></p> <p>The Sea Wall</p>	<p>“ 1 Scarecrow, 2 Mipps, 4 Tub Carrier, 5 Mrs Waggetts, 6 Meg, 12 Young Hadley , 7 Mr Stubbard. 1,2,3,4,5,6 Smuggler Chorus, 7,8,9,10,11 Press Gang plus two Powder monkeys (children).</p>
<p><u>Scene 14</u></p> <p>The Sea Wall</p>	<p><i>The Scarecrow Rides Tonight Reprise</i> Cast as Sc 13</p>

Doctor Syn and The Scarecrow

The Cast

1. Dr. Christopher Syn (vicar of Dymchurch) aka The Scarecrow
2. Mr. Mipps (Syn's sexton and right hand man) aka Hellspite
3. Charlotte (eldest daughter of Syn's old friend Tony Cobtree) aka Curlew / Barn dance girl / chorus
4. The Tub Carrier (Narrator and Smuggler) / chorus
5. Widow Ransley (one of Syn's more vulnerable parishioners) / Mrs Waggetts (Inn keeper at The Ship Inn)/ Kate Pembury (daughter to Sir Henry P) / Mrs Cobtree (wife to Tony) / Barn dance girl / chorus
6. Meg Clouder (Inn keeper at The Sea Wall Tavern – re-named The City of London) / Barn dance girl / chorus
7. Merry (A professional low life who is made to do odd jobs by Syn) / Mr Stubbard (in charge of the press gang) / Dragoon / Mr Fragg (a lawyer) / Smuggler / chorus
8. Squire Anthony Cobtree (Community leader of Dymchurch and Syn's oldest friend, though ignorant of Syn's alter ego) / Judge / Smuggler / Dragoon / Guard / Townsperson / chorus
9. Sir Henry Pembury (Lord of Lympe with its castle on the hill above Romney Marsh and Dymchurch) / Dragoon / Guard / Smuggler / Townsperson / chorus
10. Captain Faunce (in charge of revenue troops) / Smuggler / Brazlett (Traitor to the smugglers) / chorus
11. Ransley Senior (Widow Ransley's dead husband) / Shem Ransley (her son) / Parson Bowden (Syn's predecessor as vicar of Dymchurch) / Butler to Squire Cobtree / chorus
12. Young Hadley (local victim of the press gang) / Cornet Brackenbury (a young officer of the dragoons) / Abel Clouder (Landlord of The Sea Wall Tavern) / Young Ransley (The widow's grandson) / Smuggler / chorus

Plus two children to play unspoken parts as powder monkeys / drummer boys employed by the press gang.

Other names used by the smugglers in the Doctor Syn novels that can be adopted by the cast: Belch the Demon, Satan, Catseyes, Pontius Pilot, Vulture, Eagle, Raven and Cormorant.

Doctor Syn and The Scarecrow by Chris Lea

Lyrics and music to all songs by Chris Lea except:

Captain Clegg's Quaint Old Capstan Song	– Lyrics by Russell Thorndike and music by Chris Lea
Captain Clegg's Quaint Old Capstan Song Reprise and	– Lyrics by Russell Thorndike and music by Chris Lea
The Tub Carrier	– Lyrics and music by Chris Lea and Stephen Skey
Like Penelope	– Lyrics and music by Chris Lea and Stephen Skey

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2011, 2012 and 2013.***

**Based on the characters and stories taken from The Doctor Syn novels
by Russell Thorndike**

Musicians

1. Fretted Strings (Guitars, Mandolin, Banjo)
2. Fretted Strings (“ plus poss. Bouzouki, Fiddle)
3. Flute (plus possibly Fiddle/Guitar)
4. Keyboards
5. Bass
6. Drums and Percussion

Sound effects

Doctor Syn and The Scarecrow by Chris Lea

ACT I

Scene 1

Romney Marsh / Outside Dover Castle (cell interior to side)

Romney Marsh, dawn is breaking. It is an eerie, desolate, but strangely beautiful landscape meeting the south Kent /Sussex coast. Although flat with wide open spaces, there are the dykes that run along the roads and inland there is a steep hill with remains of a Roman fort on the slope, and at the summit Lympne Castle looking down. The marsh is in mist. Smugglers approach, marching in with the night's cargo, singing **Captain Clegg's 'Quaint Old Capstan Song'**:

Charlotte, Mipps,

Tub Carrier, Company: Here's to the feet wot have walked the plank –
Yo-ho for the dead man's throttle
And here's to the corpses afloat in the tank
And the deadman's teeth in the bottle.

The mist clears to show the outside of Dover Castle (a distinctive medieval castle on a hill overlooking Dover port, some way along the coast from Dymchurch and Romney Marsh). The smugglers exit. An alarm bell rings. There is an escape attempt. A scarecrow appears to fly from the tower of the castle, over the audience.

Locals and castle guards witness what appears to be a leap by The Scarecrow from the tower, but then fly away. The company perform **Scarecrow's Leap**:

Company:

Raise the alarm
The Scarecrow has flown
Leapt from the tower
To the cobbles below
No-one could survive
A jump from that height
But where is the body
The man in disguise.

C)

All the King's horses
And all the King's men
Couldn't put Scarecrow
back together again
But where is the body
Where is the man
Flown far away

To make mischief again

It was a wind- swept night
Just as dawn was breaking
When the cry went out
The Scarecrow escaping.
A black shape emerged
From the window in the tower
And took to the air
With unnatural power.

The black figure flew
Over ramparts and walls
Out along the coast
And so a legend was born.
Clearly unsettled
Witnesses to the sight
Swore it was the devil
Who had taken to flight.

Acting on info
From good Dr Syn
Given the location
Of where to find him.
That a base could be found
On a farm on Hythe Road
And if they left the smugglers
They could catch him alone.

C) So all the King's horses
 And all the King's men
 Off to Dover Castle
 To be not seen again.
 A repulsive looking devil
 If ever was one
 As he ranted and raved
 And spooked everyone.

Guard: He kept them from taking off
 The mask that he wears...
 But we'll deal with that later
 When we see how he fares.
 He'll fall into sleep
 He's none but a drunk
 And we'll pull it off
 With a minimum of fuss.

Company: C) All the King's horses
 And all the King's men
 Couldn't keep the Scarecrow

In the lion's den.
 Whether he's the devil
 Or merely a man
 He'll lead a merry dance
 around the excise men.

They opened the shutter
 Opened the door
 Everything was just
 As it was before.
 All but Dr Syn
 Tied up on the floor,
 All he got for his preaching
 To those locked behind doors

As the song progresses there is a visual cut to a high spot on the stage depicting The Scarecrow's cell with Dr Syn face down, tied up on the floor. The coda of the song has Mt Mipps taking up the story. During this section we visit Scarecrow's cell again showing Dr Syn changing out of his Scarecrow rags, throwing them out of the window and making himself appear tied up. Mr Mipps enters. He is seen to be handing a guard a hip flask. The guard drinks and promptly falls asleep. Mipps approaches centre stage to bring the song to an end.

Mr Mipps:

It was a little foxication
 Between the doctor and me
 A little supernatural hokum
 For the authorities to see.
 A little foxication
 Between the doctor and me
 But now they haven't got a clue
 What to believe.

Scene 2

Romney Marsh

Mr Mipps sets the scene with ***Romney Marsh:***

Mr Mipps:

The year is 1777. It's a hard life for men of Dymchurch and Romney Marsh. A wild land meeting a wild sea, with the two separated by the great seawall. It's hard to make a living. Smuggling on the other hand brings what many describe as an honest trade.

Of course it is not for the Sexton of Dymchurch to condone smuggling, you understand. It carries heavy penalties if you get caught, but it is also a saviour for local people - I believe.

This is a land of strange goings on. Reports of ghostly figures riding around at night, headed by a scarecrow that comes to life. Of course it all helps to give a bit of character to the place. It also helps to keep the prying eyes away, if you take my drift.

Personally I would not want to offer an opinion on whether The Marsh is a home to the supernatural - at least until we get better acquainted. Nor whether the goings on have any connection with alleged smuggling practises. Loads of people saw The Scarecrow fly away from Dover Castle tower. All I would say is that these are his rags sewn together, carried away by the wind. It was me who picked them up from the beach. Still it did the trick.

He ends by holding up The Scarecrow's rags joined together, to look like a human figure in disguise.

Mipps exits.

Scene 3

Dymchurch Sea Wall

The scene is the sea wall with The Sea Wall Tavern to one side and the sea in the background. The Tub Carrier is introduced as a key part of the smuggler gang and narrator. He further sets the scene with ***The Tub Carrier:***

<i>The Tub</i>	
<i>Carrier</i>	Stroll along the seawall
<i>plus</i>	Take in the evening air
<i>smuggler</i>	Fumes of brown sugar
<i>chorus :</i>	Rising up everywhere
	You might think that it was baking day

For the women hard at work
 Cousin Jack's in town today
 And he's over 80 proof

The French like their brandy
 Like the English like their gin
 Without a hint of colour
 So the English put it in.
 transported on to London
 Through back roads late at night
 Our very precious cargo
 Must be moved before it's light.

- c) Oh yes "I like a smuggler
 He's the only honest thief
 He robs no-one but the revenue
 Who would only give us grief".
 "Claret for the boys
 Let the men drink Port
 But he who would be a hero
 Must drink brandy and not be caught".

I work as a tub carrier
 I get paid 5 pence a night
 And that is just for turning up
 25 if our luck comes right
 Plus Brandy and a hot meal
 To keep out the cold
 Not a shilling a week as a labourer
 I'll be a smuggler bold.

The authorities they hate our kind
 Want to break our merry band
 They say this is the worst place for
 smuggling in the land
 Their latest trick's the press gangs
 To drag us off to war
 And they're waiting for their time to strike
 To smash us one and all.

- c)
 Intro + instrumental verse

Hear the sound of the pipe and drum,
 the press gang's in our town
 Recruiting for the navy
 And bring the smugglers down.
 All smart and pretty in their uniforms
 but they're just a bunch of crooks
 Mr Stubbard and his press gang

Must be made to swing their hooks.

And so I carry on my toil
 My burden around my neck
 Two 4 ½ gallon tubs
 Enough for a moonlight trek
 So won't you let us be
 And leave us to our employment
 Or Mr Stubbard's press gang
 Could meet with an accident

c)
 c)

But he who would be a hero
 Must drink brandy and not be caught.
 But he who would be a hero
 Must drink brandy and not be caught.

The scene goes dark and finishes.

Scene 4

Mr Mipps' Workshop (includes coffins and timber. Secret spots hide Mipps's stash of brandy).

Mr Mipps is performed as a formal introduction from Dr Syn's right hand man:

Mr Mipps: Oh I forgot to introduce myself...

Good evening to you all, Mr Mipps I am, Diddymous Mipps.
 Pleased to make your acquaintance

A resident of the Marsh I am, born and bred,
 With a desire to die of old age in my bed.
 Sexton, Undertaker, Verger, Bell Pull and Clerk,
 A post for which I trained 20 years before the mast.

To anyone who asks
 I'm an old sea dog what's come home,
 Said good-bye to the sea
 No-more me to roam.
 A ship's carpenter I was in the Royal Navy,
 But not necessarily for the whole 20 years,
 Between you and me – and that fine bottle of brandy.

For a generous time, it might have been said
 That I served as first mate to the pirate Captain Clegg,
 But truth is there is no-one left to tell,
 For I blew up the ship and his crew back to Hell.
 It may seem a little harsh
 It may seem extreme
 But they were the biggest load of
 cut-throats on the seas.

No more than they deserved
 And it was the only way
 To start a new life
 For a captain and first mate.

No more than they deserved
 And it was the only way
 For everyone knows
 Dead men tell no tales.

- c) A little foxication between the good captain and me
 An explosive end to our little company
 The sinking of The Imogene and full complement of crew
 Passing the blame for our deeds onto who
 Was responsible for Clegg's turning to
 An adventurous and violent life
 The man who stole away Dr Syn's wife.

But enough of the captain
 This song is about me
 A respected pillar in the community,
 Sexton, Undertaker, Verger, Bell Pull, Clerk I be,
 But watch out for the full moon
 When the night riders fly
 When I'm First Mate to the Scarecrow,
 By your leave Hellspite!

Mipp's performs a quick change into his disguise as Hellspite (or simply holds up his mask). And then back again to his 'respectable' self.

Mipps: So what of my master who made me Sexton, Undertaker,
 Verger, Bell Pull and Clerk. Where did he come from,
 and what of the Scarecrow who they say rules the marsh.
 It all started when a respected man of the cloth
 returned to his home after 20 years pursuing the man
 who stole his wife. It was perhaps a taste of things to come
 with him making quite an entrance...

Scene 5

The Sea Wall. At night in a storm.

The Sea Wall Tavern is in the foreground. A storm damaged ship in the background is seen to be in distress. The Tub Carrier and the company describe the wreck of the 'City of London' ship and the return of Dr Syn with ***The Ghost of Captain Clegg:***

The Tub Carrier: V1) The thunder cracked, the wind it roared
When *The City of London* ran aground
Not a living soul survived the wreck
But the ghost of Captain Clegg.

A shadowy figure stumbled ashore
A sea chest roped to his wrist
A seafaring man who survived the wreck
The ghost of Captain Clegg.

B1) November 13th 1775
The night the great storm came
It was as if the very gates of Hell had opened
Even stones were blown from the graves.

A shot rang out, a ship in distress
A bad night to be at sea
A tragedy for one so close to port
But unable to reach safety.

The City of London ship draws closer with fire on board and survivors trying to abandon ship:

V2) She struck the sand but was dipping at the bow
With fallen masts and sails
There was fire in the hold below the poop deck
cabin
Fanned by the power of the gale.

The sturdy brig lifted higher and higher
Hurled nearer to the sea wall
Onlookers wondered how they could save the
crew
No boat could fight this storm.

Landlord Abel Clouder is seen to leave the tavern, fighting against the wind and rain, rope in hand and kissing his wife good-bye before going into the water. He and the young Dymchurch vicar try to swim out to the ship to try to rescue the passengers and crew:

B2) Abel Clouder was the strongest swimmer
 Landlord from The Sea Wall Tavern
 He took a line to swim out to the wreck
 Along with Parson Bolden.

It was then that the smell of sulphur grew stronger
 An explosion in the hull
 The brig shook hard with fire in the sky
 And was raised on to Dymchurch Sea Wall.

The foreground shows the outside of The Sea Wall Tavern. Meg Clouder witnesses her husband's departure/death as the ship explodes and mounts the sea wall. The broken ship rises up to the entrance of the tavern, its figurehead appearing (a fearsome creature) appearing to confront Meg at the entrance.

M1) The crowd looked on in a moment of horror
 None more than Chouder's wife Meg
 As the door flung open to the Sea Wall Tavern
 She saw the devil smiling back

She later said she knew her man was dead
 From the mocking face staring back
 In her shock she couldn't see it was just the face
 (Of) *The City of London* (the ship's) figurehead.

The foreground becomes the beach. Merry a local man, but looking bedraggled as if he was ship wrecked, staggers around the spoils of the wreck. He makes sure that any would be survivors are dead before robbing them. He murders the captain, steals his things before turning to another but is caught out by a survivor who has come to his senses.

Merry: V3) In time of disaster, folks rally round
 But there's always one out for gain.
 A weasely man, a sour disposition
 Yes Merry is my name!

Having murdered the captain floating to shore,
 Took his money belt, emptied his coat
 I then turned to the figure that I thought was dead
 But found his knife pinned to me throat.

He is motioned by the stranger to pick up his sea chest and it is understood that he is now beholden to the stranger, to be his servant, which may either prevent or at least postpone his death or arrest. He is then put to task in carrying the stranger's sea chest. To the squire's house:

A red velvet coat and fine leather boots
Pistols, a sword on a sash
An ostrich feather graced his captain's hat
It was the ghost of Captain Clegg.

Syn: M2) Captain Clegg I regret to inform you
that we have reached the parting of the waves.
If I do not leave your company,
It will be the gallows and a murderer's grave.

By reason of the many acts you've rendered
And the reputation they bring,
I rest your humble servant.
Your successor Dr Syn.

Charlotte: It was then in father's house
I stumbled on the scene
He was not the humble parson
I'd just seen
But a strange apparition,
not my father's guest
It was the ghost of Captain Clegg.

Scene 6

Mr Mipps' Workshop

Charlotte and her mother (out of character) become flamenco hand clappers/castanet players. Mipps and Mrs Waggetts (the land lady of The Ship Inn) arrive from Stage right dancing a 'tango' in a Grouch Marx style. Mipps has a rose in his mouth, but soon drops Mrs Waggetts when he feels that he is being watched by the audience. Mrs Waggetts has long term plans for Mipps and herself which he seems unwilling to reciprocate. Mipps continues the story with ***The City of London:***

Mr Mipps: And so two years ago the Reverend Doctor Syn
Returned to his Parish, his ministry to begin
Vicar of Dymchurch in the shadow of the sea wall.
Stepping in the shoes of poor Mr Bolden
Who drowned trying to save The City of London
Dr Syn was able to resume his old life
With friends like the family of the squire

The Sea Wall tavern was left but a wreck
Leaving Meg Clouder to deal with the mess
The parish got together and rebuilt the inn
Using timbers from the wreck of the ship
It was then only fitting to rename the inn
The City of London to honour the dead.

It was just a little later
 When I arrived on the scene
 Working my passage in the King's own navy.
 It was natural that the good doctor
 Would take me into his trust
 And set me up in my parochial tasks
 Respectable me with me coffins and casks
 All was going swimmingly
 Until a little trouble came to pass

Scene 7

Romney Marsh / the beach

It is night time. The Tub Carrier and other smugglers start ***The Scarecrow Rides Tonight***. The Tub Carrier walks over to the rest of the smugglers and takes a similar position as the others ie hands ties behind their backs, sat on barrels of brandy.

Company: C1 Ride hard this fearful night
 Don't give up till morning light
 The dragoons have you in their sights
The Scarecrow rides tonight

Ride hard this fearful night
 Don't give up till morning light
 The dragoons have you in their sights
The Scarecrow rides tonight!

Tub Carrier: V1 The authorities were up in arms
 A murder on the marsh
 The Sandgate riding officer
 Killed at the Aldington farm

Mipps is amongst the captured smugglers. He is seen sneaking away, letting the ropes that he has worked loose drop from his wrists. He addresses the audience.

Mr Mipps: Meanwhile in the dead of night
 Our fellows were in the mire
 Caught smuggling on Knockholt beach
 As the revenue passed by

B1 All got tied up hand and foot
 Dragoons tied them to the kegs,
 Only I could get away
 With little chance of help.

Inset – Dr Syn’s study. Mipps enters through the window.

Mr Mipps: So I went to Dr Syn
Through his window
(To) not be seen.
Confessed my little jaunt
And the problem on the beach

B1a Someone had to look after the fools.
Was my reason for breaking all the rules

C2 I take it you ain’t standing by
To see half the parish hanging high
If only you’d been leadin’ us.
Only Clegg can save their necks.

Dr Syn is seen to ponder the situation before rushing into action.

Company: And so a desperate plan was born
With a long term aim in mind
Time for a little adventure
Something dark had stirred inside.

Dr Syn: Take this key to my sea chest.
Load my pony with guineas, food and the
scarecrow’s rags
I have a number of calls to make tonight
The Scarecrow rides tonight! – Arrr!

The beach – Dr Syn arrives and greets the dragoons and captured smugglers
He fails to free the latter.

Company: V2 Doctor Syn on his little white pony
Rode down to Knockholt beach
He was taken down to the sorry bunch
With escape beyond their reach.

In his role as spiritual leader
He pleaded for their release
When Captain Faunce refused him
He then turned to the men.

Dr Syn: B2 My poor dear friends you have this night
brought this calamity upon yourselves.
I can do nothing for you
Apart from praying for your souls.

Dr Syn exits.

Company: So off he rode to buy a horse
To the traders at the romany camp
And arranged a secret stable
With old mother Handaway

B2a And so the good doctor was transformed
A change of clothes
And the Scarecrow was born

C3 Ride hard this fearful night
Don't give up till morning light
The dragoons have you in their sights
The Scarecrow rides tonight (x2)

Gehenna Jig: Representation of Scarecrow mounted on Gehenna
(Scarecrow's new black stallion) galloping over the marsh.

C4 *Instrumental*

Syn rides back to the beach, just out of range of the dragoons standing guard,
this time in the disguise of scarecrow's rags.

Company: V3 The Scarecrow rode to Knockholt beach
Saw the Dragoons down by the fire
Still guarding the weary smuggler band
Waiting for the revenue cutter.

Making an entrance in the moonlight
A figure on the skyline
Of a ghostly spectral horseman
Come to mock the revenue men

Scarecrow addresses the dragoons.

Scarecrow: B3 "Leave these poor fools alone.
I'm the man you're looking for
Grinsley, the murderer.
But you won't catch me tonight."

Capt Faunce replies.

Company: Capt Faunce fired his guns
But one misfired
And the other went wide.
He shouted to his men
To get the murderer's hide

Capt Faunce: "Mount and after him boys. Granger and Metcalf stay here mounted and guard the prisoners, Any treachery, use your sabres without mercy.

Company: B3a The dragoons headed for the sand hill
The Scarecrow waved farewell
turned his horse, jumped the dyke
and led the hunt to the hills.

C5 Ride hard this fearful night
Don't give up till morning light
The dragoons have you in their sights
The Scarecrow rides tonight (x2)

The beach – Mipps frees the men.

Mr Mipps: V4 In the confusion and
Smoke of the fire
Crawled behind the prisoners
And cut their ropes.

Hiding my face
Took charge of the scene
The remaining guards panicked
Having too much now to cope.

B4 About turn you two and follow the hunt.
You may take a murderer, but you don't take us.

Dragoons: What the hell?

Mr Mipps: You've no chance, The prisoners are all free!
Twenty of us against you two.
If you go for your sabres, I will shoot,
I will not miss
Respect your horses. About turn.

B4a Quick lads! Stamp out the fire.
Load them kegs on the pack ponies
Away with them as arranged
Before the soldiers return.

Company: C5 Ride hard this fearful night
Don't give up till morning light
The dragoons have you in their sights
The Scarecrow rides tonight

Smuggler 1: Seems to me that we owe our freedom to this
Grinsley.

Mr Mipps: That wasn't Grinsley. That's our new leader, if we
behave ourselves. If we get clear away this
blessed night, he'll lead us, I'll take my oath. And
what's more, we'll never get laid by the heels if we
obeys him. And if we gets him, why, he gives the
orders and not me.

Smuggler 1: Who is it?

Mr Mipps: Never you mind. No proper names is best, as
we've found out, but amongst us he's the
Scarecrow, that's what he is.

Smuggler 2: I Know. I can tell who he is by the way he rides.
It's Jimmie Bone the highwayman. Now isn't it?

Mr Mipps: Maybe, but he's to be called The Scarecrow from
now on, and if he takes on the job and don't lead
them Revenue men a dance – well, you wait.

Scene 8

The Sea Wall – the next morning (change of scene while song continues).

Dr Syn is strolling along the sea wall enjoying his morning constitutional. He meets Captain Faunce coming towards him. The Tub Carrier looks on and picks up the story with the final verse/chorus of ***The Scarecrow Rides Tonight:***

Tub Carrier: V5 Next morning Dr Syn
Dressed in clerical clothes
Met Capt Faunce, mud stained and weary
After chasing Grinsley all night

He'd lost his men in the hunt

And Grinsley had got away
 But at least the prisoners were now locked up
 Behind bars at Sandgate.

B5 At that moment there's a trumpet call
 And the dragoons come riding by
 Up along the sea wall
 To report on the night's events.

The troop sergeant reported Grinsley's death,
 Tracked him down at Tenterden.
 Stabbed by Metcalf, trying to escape
 When the church clock struck '4'

B5a Faunce then states:

Capt Faunce: I heard the clock strike four
 I swear I could still see Grinsley on the tor.

They all look up as they hear the clock strike four.

Dr Syn: "Makes one believe in the supernatural,
 that sort of experience."

Capt Faunce: "And Metcalf killed him you say?
 But I left Metcalf to guard the prisoners."

Tub Carrier: The sergeant then explains about the escape.

Capt Faunce: But that's not a problem. We can round them up.
 Surely you could recognise them Dr Syn from
 when you came down the beach last night?

Dr Syn: I purposely did not look at them. Though you
 could hardly expect me to hand over my own
 parishioners if I had. I am a man of peace. I can
 promise you, though Captain, that you will never
 take them again in the act of cheating The
 Revenue.

Company: C6 Ride hard this fearful night
 Don't give up till morning light
 The dragoons have you in their sights
The Scarecrow rides tonight

Ride hard this fearful night
 Don't give up till morning light
 The dragoons have you in their sights

The Scarecrow rides tonight

The Scarecrow rides tonight
The Scarecrow rides tonight
The Scarecrow rides tonight
The Scarecrow rides tonight

Mr Mipps: And so ends the story of how the Scarecrow became leader of the Romney Marsh smugglers.

Charlotte watches Syn walk away from Captain Faunce, at first walking hesitantly with a stoop, (as if an elderly clergyman) then confidently straight backed. Charlotte confronts Syn in a flirtatious way. She is fully aware of what has gone on the night before. Their conversation is the duet ***A Girl Could Fall:***

Charlotte: I hear our beloved parishioners
 (V1) were rescued last night
 by a dashing young man
 on a black hunter, quite a sight!
 - Do you know anything about it?

Dr Syn: I went down to the beach
 (V2) The men were forlorn
 I was unable to help them
 They had broken the law
 This stranger saved them
 when I could not
 Not a law abiding men,
 but a saviour to this lot

Charlotte: Oh I don't know, if truth be told,
 C) A girl could fall for a man like that!
 Oh I don't know, if truth be told,
 A girl could fall for a man like that!

Charlotte: A man appears
 (V3) just in the brink
 an adventurer and chancer
 a familiar ring don't you think?

And add to that
 a fatherly concern
 for the men of the parish,
 even smugglers and crooks.

V4) There's a hint of a romantic character there,
 perhaps the like of pirate Captain Clegg

Syn: I don't think that a pirate
would settle down
in a quiet back water
like Dymchurch town

Charlotte: Oh I don't know, if truth be told,
C) A girl could fall for a man like that!
Oh I don't know, if truth be told,
A girl could fall for a man like that!

Syn: What an uncouth pirate who would kill without need?
Charlotte: No a country parson who is more than he seems. Good day Dr
(B) Syn

Charlotte: Oh I don't know, if truth be told,
C) A girl could fall for a man like that!
Oh I don't know, if truth be told,
A girl could fall for a man like that!

Syn: Oh if only I was twenty or even just ten years younger!

Charlotte walks away whistling Clegg's Capstan Song.

On parting she shows her feelings to the audience with ***What Kind of Man is this:***

Charlotte: What Kind of man is this
Burying his real self deep
A gentle soul, a man of God.
But I know the real man underneath

He trots along on that pony of his
A prim old man, a powdered wig
He draws attention from his build and gait
But I know the real man underneath

An adventurer with a darkened past
A man who would scour the world for revenge
A fighter and a pirate bold
Who could crush your very bones
In his hands.

Doing good across the Marsh
A shepherd leading his flock
And though I gladly tag along
There is more I would wait patiently for

Charlotte: He's embarrassed over our difference in age
 He is my father's oldest friend
 But when he gives away his authority and strength
 He has the flair of a far younger man.

I'm still haunted by that very first night
 When I stumbled across him in his room.
 The red coat, the pistols and sword
 Oh I know the man underneath.
 Oh I love the true man underneath.
 I would have the pirate underneath.

The set goes dark for the end of the scene.

Scene 9

The Beach – late at night

Smugglers in their marsh witches disguises (Syn/Scarecrow and Mipps/Hellspite are not yet present) are loading tubs of brandy on to carts and tub carriers. Dragoons take them by surprise and attempt to place them under arrest. They sing ***Another Time Gentlemen:***

Dragoon: Good evening gentlemen
 a nice stroll on the beach?
 It's a pity all that brandy
 will (soon) be out of reach

Full marks for the costumes
 Didn't know it was Halloween
 Now please put down your weapons
 (Come quietly) you're under arrest, you're coming with me

Scarecrow appears, pistols in hands, and turns the tables, disarming the dragoons. He has no intention of harming the dragoons; just to take away the threat to his men.

Scarecrow: Arrah!
 Change of plan,
 For your over-zealous force
 I suspect a little help
 From a dubious source

If you care to drop your weapons
 You can be on your way

Just wait till we're clear
Retrieve your guns another day

So be on your way
I will send word soon enough.
Now time for you to leave
Please make no fuss

(To the smugglers. Smugglers
leave with cargo).
(To the dragoons).

Dragoon: Another time gentlemen?
Time gentlemen please
The tables may turn
The next time we meet

Another time gentlemen?
Time gentlemen please
The tables may turn
The next time we meet

The smugglers having finished their work and left, the dragoons are allowed to leave without their weapons. Scarecrow appears to be left alone but he is surprised by Captain Faunce, with Merry in tow. Faunce attempts to arrest The Scarecrow but the tables are turned again with a new smuggler character 'Curlew' holding up Captain Faunce and saving Scarecrow.

Capt.

Faunce: Welcome Scarecrow
(So) nice to see you alone
Thank-you Mr Merry
Your payment will follow

So I have you at last
The infamous Scarecrow
With no followers to help
Drop your pistols, time to go

Curlew appears for the first time, guns trained on Faunce she whispers to Scarecrow.

Curlew: Letting your guard down Scarecrow?

Curlew: Reporting for duty, the Curlew I be
Is the Captain to be despatched?
He seems all lost at sea

Scarecrow: Oh thank-you Curlew, there's no need for that
We'll just empty his gun
And then we'll send him back

Capt.

Faunce: Another time gentlemen?
Time gentlemen please
The tables may turn
The next time be meet

Another time gentlemen?
Time gentlemen please
The tables may turn
The next time that we meet

Scarecrow allows Faunce to leave in disgrace without his captive or his gun/ammunition.

Scarecrow: And Mr Merry must travel far
To get beyond my reach
It could be a fitting end
To find him dead up on the beach.

But enough of this talk
This has been a nice surprise
A new lieutenant for the Scarecrow
And a rather fetching disguise

Is that Mipps old suit
Given a new life?
I think I know the character
behind the disguise.

Hellspite appears (who has been watching Scarecrow's back from a distance). Scarecrow addresses Hellspite.

Scarecrow: So another time gentlemen
Time gentlemen please
I think I should look forward
To next time that we meet

Curlew: Another time gentlemen
Time gentlemen please
A curlew has many ways
A Scarecrow for to please

Another time gentlemen
Time gentlemen please
Loyal to The Scarecrow
The Curlew will always be.....Good-night Scarecrow

Curlew disappears having made his/her point and become part of the smuggler gang. Scarecrow and Hellspite discuss the stranger.

Scarecrow:
(to Hespitate/
Mipps)

Did you know about this?

Mipps:

All I know is Miss Charlotte
Offered to buy my old suit
She paid me two guinees
And she looks good in it too.
But in the bright moonlight
It'll need a bit more work
She'll never convince the revenue
That she's really not a girl!

Both:

Another time gentlemen?
Time gentlemen please
The tables will turn
The next time we meet

Another time gentlemen?
Time gentlemen please
I think I will look forward
To the next time that we meet

The scene goes dark and finishes. End of Act 1.

ACT II

Scene 1

Romney Marsh/beach

It is night time (to the beginning of dawn breaking) with a mist. Scarecrow and the smugglers are in disguise. **Captain Clegg's 'Quaint old Capstan Song' Reprise** is performed shanty style, used as a work song as loading/unloading contraband takes place.

Scarecrow: Here's to the feet wot have walked the plank –

Chorus: Yo-ho for the dead man's throttle

Scarecrow: And here's to the corpses afloat in the tank

Chorus: And the deadman's teeth in the bottle.

Scarecrow: For a pound of gunshot tied to his feet

Chorus: Yo-ho for the dead man's throttle

Scarecrow: And a ragged bit of sail for a winding sheet

Chorus: And the deadman's teeth in the bottle

“ Then the signal goes with a bang and a flash

Yo-ho for the dead man's throttle

And overboard you go with a horrible splash.

And the deadman's teeth in the bottle

“ And all that isn't swallowed by the sharks outside,

Yo-ho for the dead man's throttle

Stands up again upon its feet upon the running tide,

And the deadman's teeth in the bottle

“ And it keeps a-blowin' gently, and a-looking with surprise

Yo-ho for the dead man's throttle

As each little crab a-scrambling from the sockets of its eyes.

And the deadman's teeth in the bottle

“ Here's to the feet wot have walked the plank –

Yo-ho for the dead man's throttle

And here's to the corpses afloat in the tank

And the deadman's teeth in the bottle.

Scene 2

Lympne Castle – interior

Syn and Tony Cobtree (Syn's oldest friend from student days, Charlotte's father, but ignorant of Syn's alter ego) are guests of Sir Henry Pembury, enjoying after dinner drinks. There is an argument between Sir Henry

Pembury, Lord of Lympne & Tony, witnessed by his other guest Dr Christopher Syn. Pembury blames Cobtree for the lawlessness in the area ie the smuggling, and comes close to accusing him of being The Scarecrow himself. Pembury is hot-headed and challenges Cobtree to a duel. **Sir Henry Pembury:**

Sir Henry

Pembury: Call yourself a squire
Upholder of the law
You do nothing to stop this lawlessness
To keep the blaggards from our doors
Are my stables to be pillaged
By your smuggler scum
Every time they go about their trade
And have their night time fun

Sir Tony

Cobtree: But no-one actually steals a horse
They always are returned

Pembury: But they always come home filthy
Exhausted and infirm

Cobtree: But I hear your grooms do not complain
And are well compensated
They're only now just sobering up
From the brandy left donated

Pembury: But it's not the grooms that are deprived
From riding with the hunt
It's me who has to live it down
To my embarrassment

V1) Instr

So set the time and set the date
I will not be made a fool
choose your weapons carefully
I challenge you to a duel

Cobtree: I'm not going to take this seriously
I'm not gonna fight your duel
I'm not fighting a man who's double my age
An old duffer and a fool – Good night Sir!

Cobtree turns him down and leaves. At the same time Syn witnesses Pembury's daughter Kate and her would be fiancé, Cornet Brackenbury, enter and try to raise the issue of marriage with Sir Henry.

Kate: Go on. Ask him now!

Cornet

Brackenbury: Good evening Gentlemen
I hope Sir Henry this is a good moment
There's a subject I need to raise with you
Concerning Kate your daughter....

Pembury: I think not! Not a chance!

Syn, in having a soft spot for young love, engineers a situation where Brackenbury could gain high standing with his would be father-in-law and so marry Kate by capturing The Scarecrow and presenting him to Sir Henry P: However in doing so The Scarecrow would have so that he did not stay captured for long. ***Mr Brackenbury's Engagement:***

Sir Henry

Pembury: Young Mr Brackenbury, keen to make a name,
And a reputation, and my daughter's hand to gain
But I sent him off with his tail between his legs
I need a better man for my daughter Kate
Bring some law and order back to the Marsh
Tonight

The Dymchurch vicar, protested his case,
And asked me to give Mr Brackenbury a chance
So I promised Kate's hand
Of course with her consent
When he brought in the Scarecrow
To my castle at Lympe
I want to see the scoundrel
Here face to face
Alright!

Dr Syn:

If you promise me
To do exactly what I say
I can promise you the Scarecrow
And see you safely on your way
Sir Henry gets his prisoner
And you can have your Kate
What do you say?

Of course I only act
within the law
But I do have my connections
What are sextons for
Mipps will take you and your men this night
Do what he says and you will get your prize

Scene 3

The Marsh at night.

Mr Brackenbury's Engagement continues. Mipps enters to take Brackenbury and his dragoons to the Scarecrow's temporary base for the night. The idea is to let the other smugglers go and to capture The Scarecrow alone, get the back-up of the dragoons who are all disguised as Scarecrow's smugglers and take The Scarecrow back to Lympne Castle.

Mipps: So I took Mr Brackenbury
 to a quiet little spot
 Him and his 9 dragoons
 Would be right for the job

 Got them to change their clothes and black up
 To pass as the marshmen in the Scarecrow's pay
 As a cavalry of ghostly horsemen passed by
 I said "Wait!"

 (I said) "If you want the Scarecrow
 Leave the others alone
 And leave your men here
 And follow me on your own"
 We'll see in a minute
 Where the Scarecrow is hid
 Without his men around him
 You can strike quite quick
 And you'll soon have your prize tonight, tonight

 So we crossed some dykes
 And we crossed some fields
 Till we found the Scarecrow
 And waited until
 His men had gone
 And he was all alone in the night

 So we held up the Scarecrow
 And I went back for the dragoons
 And we brought the scoundrel
 To Sir Henry in his rooms
 Brackenbury got his girl
 But Sir Henry changed his tune that night.

Scene 4

Lympne Castle interior/Town Square

The group take Scarecrow back to Sir Henry. Having gained the necessary favour of his father-in-law to be, Brackenbury leaves. (Mipps does not go in

and leaves while outside the castle). Scarecrow transpires that the men in disguise are in fact his men and not dragoons. Sir Henry is led off to be tied (gently) to the gallows pole in the square.

Tub Carrier: Locked up in Lymne Castle
Sir Henry told him his fate
Sir Henry: To be bundled in the dungeons
And then the gallows await

Scarecrow: "Oh I think not!"
Tub Carrier: the Scarecrow replied
He was freed there and then
By his men in disguise
Sir Henry was found next day
In the square
Bound and tied

Mipps: A little foxication tween the Doctor and me
This deception had nout to do with me
When I went back for his men
How was I to know
That the men in disguise were not dragoons
But the Scarecrow's men by the light of the moon
They were dressed the same
As they were all in disguise
Even Brackenbury himself was fooled...
Or was he I wonder?

Scene 5

Dr Syn's Study

Dr Syn and Mr Mipps enjoy a drink of brandy and discussion on the risks of their smuggler trade with **A Gazetted Man:**

Mipps: You're taking too many chances
Not looking after your health
It's not like the smuggling
Adds that much to your wealth
I know it helps the locals
It would be a shame to stop
But just ease off a little
Slow it down that's the job

Syn: Of course your deductions
Are not incorrect
And the authorities up the stakes
With their penalties and their threats.

- Mipps;* They will now even hang you
For hiding smugglers away
Or merely meeting to discuss
The running of freetrade,
With a published name you have 40 days
To be put in the can
Oh it is no fun to be
a gazetted man
- Both:* A gazetted man is not a happy man
Nor the man who turns him in
(£)500 to the informer
If he lives long enough
to spend his ill-gotten gains
A gazetted man
If he doesn't come forward
Will dance the hempen jig
But if he does come forward
He's as guilty as sin
And will still dance the hempen jig
And will still dance the hempen jig
- Syn:* And if the county turns a blind eye
The county will be fined
There's the reward on the Scarecrow's head
And the press gangs have arrived
- Mipps;* But you and I we know the truth
Too late to walk away
A good little business it may be
But the adventure makes us stay
- Both:* But the adventure makes us stay
- Mipps;* And don't forget Miss Charlotte
She likes to impress
She'll end up shot with the risks she takes
Or find herself under arrest
But she'd do anything to help you
But then to keep her away
Would fairly break her heart
You know she'll never stray
- Syn:* So here's to the health of Syn and Mipps
May the lord help us with our deeds
And spare us the curse of the gazetted man
Let us all die in our beds.
- Both:* A gazetted man is not a happy man
Nor the man who turns him in

(£)500 to the informer
 If he lives long enough
 to spend his ill-gotten gains
 A gazetted man
 If he doesn't come forward
 Will dance the hempen jig
 But if he does come forward
 He's as guilty as sin
 And will still dance the hempen jig
 And will still dance the hempen jig

Mrs Waggetts enters.

Mrs.

Waggetts: Oo-er Mr Mipps, Mr Mipps. Where are you, you fine figure of a Man? There's a stranger at The Ship and he's asking questions!

Mipps: I'll take a look.

Mipps takes the foreground to begin ***Brazlett's Departure –Stranger at The Ship***. He mimes taking a drink with Mr Fragg (a legal looking gentleman). He takes Fragg to Brazlett and eavesdrops.

Mipps:

V1) It was the week before Christmas
 When I got a tip
 A dodgy looking stranger
 Was down at The Ship.
 So I wondered over
 And paid my respects
 And found him a Mr Fragg
 On legal business.

V2) I was able to probe
 Though he gave nout away
 He wanted Hugh Brazlett
 Who lived down Burmarsh Way.
 I took him to the farm
 And then took my leave
 And proceeded to eavesdrop
 On the plan they conceived.

B1) Brazlett was planning
 To leave the Marsh
 And make some money
 Without the graft.
 For 5000 guineas
 And 500 more

He would give smuggler names
To the office of the law (57 including my own).

Well we had to throw a party
It was the least we could do
For a valued parishioner
Before his time was through.
Sadly we had a tragedy
What more can I say
Mr Fragg was found dead
Without his list of names.

But we couldn't let that spoil
The festivities in hand
The local girls fussed around Brazlett
Which made him a happy man.

Scene 6

A Barn – set for a dance and party

Three girls dance around Brazlett, encourage him to sit in a chair where they use their ribbons to tie him to the chair. The scene is both innocently playful and macabre. Syn, Mipps and other locals are present. The girls sing: ***Brazlett's Departure – Ribbons and Petticoats***. The lights go out! When they are re-lit Brazlett's shadow is seen dangling in the air, still tied to the chair:

Girls: Pretty ribbons and petty coats
Dancing around the room
Let's tease the gentleman
On his last night
Tied to a chair
It'll give him a fright.

All good fun
Let it not be said
That we know not how to party
And go late to bed.
He can leave for London
With heavy heart
For the friends he'll leave behind.

Tub Carrier: Dr Syn graced the proceedings
A dance at a barn
All made merry
In the little ceremony
And then the lights went out!

Screams rang out in the darkness
 As benches and tables were turned
 Dr Syn called out for calm
 And then a ghostly voice was heard.

Scarecrow: "It is no trick, reverend.
 I put out the fire and lights.
 My name and 57 others
 Were betrayed by that coward tonight.
 You may delight to honour him.
 At this gathering tonight
 But it is I the Scarecrow
 With my smuggler justice
 Who has sentenced him to die.
 - Good-bye". You may light your candles and resume
 your party!

Company: Candles were lit
 Gasps were heard
 The gathering all froze
 As the image emerged

.Above the stage
 Swinging in the air
 Was Brazlett
 Still tied up
 And sitting in his chair

The girls appear shocked, along with the rest of the crowd, but are resigned in light of Scarecrow's speech

Company: The four legs of the chair
 Revolved above the deck
 Suspended by the noose
 Around his neck.
 It had happened so quickly
 There was nothing left to do
 (Hugh) Brazlett was clearly dead.
 Left hanging from the roof.

When they cut him down
 They checked the roof
 Where pulleys and ropes
 had been set for use.
 But a lesson was learnt
 Across the Marsh that night
 If you betray the smugglers
 With smuggler justice you die.

Scene 7

Dr Syn's Study

The scene merges back to Syn's study – the song and scene ends with Syn and Mipps sharing a festive drink of brandy.

Girls: Pretty ribbons and petticoats
 Dancing maids all in a row
 The scene had changed
 Lives re-arranged
 But Dr Syn and Mipps
 Toasted a Happy New Year.

Scene 8

Widow Ransley's House, Bonnington

Dr Syn as part of his parish duties has brought Mrs Ransley a basket of food – a regular occurrence . They are in conversation. Syn has a second reason for visiting. He has received intelligence that the widow's son, Shem, also a smuggler, may try to cheat The Scarecrow. She faces the audience to sing:
The Widow of Bonnington pt1:

Widow Ransley: I've tried to lead a pious life
 But I've struggled all my days
 To bring up my son with his father gone
 And keep us from the grave
 And now there's my two grandsons
 Life's still pretty harsh
 To be a widow woman
 On the edge of Romney Marsh

 My son is good for nothing
 Although I've heard it said
 That he smuggles for the Scarecrow
 And moves the brandy kegs
 But I never see the fruits
 Of any labours that he makes
 It don't put bread on the table
 And he drinks away his pay.

 But I look forward
 To my visits from Dr Syn
 He brings food for the table
 Reads scriptures to me
 I don't know what I'd do
 If he never came this way

I'm sure my Shem would let me starve
Or send me on my way.

He makes my heart a flutter
Takes me back to being a girl
It's so nice to have the attention
He sends me in a whirl
I feel I could tell him anything
And he's such a trusting soul

I opened up to the vicar
I was getting more afraid
I'd lost my husband to the Hawkhurst Gang
And I could see it happening again

Syn: You never did tell me what happened to your husband. I understand that he was quite a formidable fellow. What happened to him, if it not too painful?

Widow Ramsey: He got too big for himself and too deep in with the Hawkhurst Gang.

Syn: They had quite a rough reputation?

Widow Ramsey: They had a dreadful reputation, nothing but a bunch of pirates with no sense of honour and willing to kill anyone at a drop of a hat who might get in their way. My husband was one of the men who took part in the raid on Poole Customs House, which was probably the only time when they didn't actually kill anyone.

Scene 9

Outside-open country (A flash back to an earlier time)

Ransley Senior and other Hawkhurst smugglers tell the story of ***The Raid on Poole Quay***.

Ransley Senior: They called us cutthroats
thieves and scum
When we passed along the road
Folks always looked down
The most feared smugglers in the land
From Deal to Devon the Hawkhurst Gang

But we found ourselves the heroes
And the talk of the hour
For once we were the good guys
And the locals made us proud
They called it a daring raid

Across four counties to the town
Of Poole where we took back
What was rightfully ours

September '47
It was our brandy and our tea
Brought in by 'The Three Brothers'
A boat from Guernsey
But it was taken off us
by the revenue cutter
And stored in the King's warehouse
On the quayside down in Poole

Our leader Thomas Kingsmill
Was furious when he heard
And ordered 60 fellows
To see it was returned
So off we rode off dressed
in our Sunday best
Of pistols and swords
and axes and muskets

C) Maybe because
Not a single shot was fired
Maybe because
Not a single man died
But we celebrated victory
With no need for disguise
In the New Forest
At the George Inn, Fordingbridge

We headed off west
through the New Forest
To the Dorset town of Poole
where our property was stored.
At Constitution Hill
We took in the harbour view
Customs House stood proud
In the shadow of a sloop

His Majesty's guns trained
on the Customs door
And this the only entrance
to the warehouse store.
So our first thought was
Our ride had been in vain
There was no way we could go against
A ship's cannonade.

But our scouts reported
 The ebb of the tide
 And soon the ship's guns
 Would be unable to fire.
 The sloop would be too low
 To see above the quay
 And that would be
 Our time to strike.

C) Maybe because
 Not a single shot was fired
 Maybe because
 Not a single man died
 But we celebrated victory
 With no need for disguise
 In the New Forest
 At the George Inn, Fordingbridge

C)

 So we raided the Customs House
 Expecting a fight
 But saw not a soul
 Through the whole of the night.
 We took what was ours
 But left the rest behind
 Let it not be said we're common thieves
 We know our wrong from right.

Returning home
 on the ride back to Kent
 The locals came to greet us
 In the villages where we went
 A stand for the common man
 Who wants his brandy and tea.
 Who's willing to visit the Customs House
 And ride down to Poole Quay.

C) Maybe because
 Not a single shot was fired
 Maybe because
 Not a single man died
 But we celebrated victory
 With no need for disguise
 In the New Forest
 At the George Inn, Fordingbridge

C)

Scene 10**Widow Ransley's House, Bonnington**

Widow Ransley's thoughts return to the present and she continues: ***The Widow of Bonnington 2***

Widow Ransley: They all thought they were untouchable, but within two years the authorities caught up with them. The judge described it as "the most unheard of act of villainy and impudence ever known". Well you don't walk away from a comment like that!

My Shem was going up against the Scarecrow
And steal his brandy off him
We all knew what had happened to Brazlett
My son would meet a sticky end.

But the vicar listened patiently
And told me it would be alright
We all know how he hates the Scarecrow
But it was like he could help my plight.

Tub Carrier: So the run went ahead as planned
Twelve hundred tubs would come ashore
The Ransleys took the first 200
(Which were) taken up to the tor
But not to where the gang had planned
The Ransleys squirrelled away
200 tubs to keep themselves
To not be seen again.

Dr Syn expected this to happen
And duly informed the law
Meanwhile on the night
The Scarecrow stepped aside
And kept all his other men
Further South at Dungeness
Where the rest of the brandy came ashore

The Ransleys reached their hiding place
But their secret had been betrayed
Dragoons were waiting for them
Marched them off to Sandgate
As they waited for the noose
The authorities wondered if the Scarecrow
Would break them loose.

Scene 11

The Court Room

Squire Anthony Cobtree is also acting as judge. The song continues as ***The Widow of Bonnington 2 - The Ransley Trial:***

Tub Carrier: Order in court, order in the court
Justice of the Peace – Squire Cobtree presiding!

Officials and locals enter the court with a comical walk (bobbing up and down) in time with the introduction to ***The Ransley Trial:***

Tub Carrier: When the judge he took his seat
On the Monday morn
A letter was a waiting for him
To the Scarecrow's name
He was drawn:

(Read by the Judge / spoken by Scarecrow) "The Scarecrow's compliments to the judge
No need to be concerned
I do not intend to rescue the traitors
Their fingers have been burned!"

Tub Carrier: The letter caused a stir in court
How had it got inside
Matters were made worse
When Dr Syn received a threat on his life:

(Read by Dr Syn - spoken by Scarecrow) "If Dr Syn attempts to rescue
The prisoners in Sandgate
He will fall foul of the Scarecrow
His actions will seal his fate".

The Judge "But how does he think
You could free them
Even if you wanted to?"

Dr Syn "I'm afraid I had spoken too loudly
In front of a chosen few"

Dr Syn "The Scarecrow knew of the Ransleys' theft
So it doesn't make no sense
That he would offer 200 tubs
To the Revenue men.

I understand that the barrels
have not been checked inside
It would not surprise me
If there wasn't brandy inside.

Chorus And so the barrels were checked
 And only dirty water was found
 Dr Syn There is no law to hang a man
 For carrying that around.

A hole is made in one of the barrels brought in as evidence. Dirty water pours out. The officials look embarrassed.

Chorus So the Ransleys lives were spared
 Though they would have to move away
 They were still marked by the Scarecrow
 As was Dr Syn the same.

The scene goes dark and ends.

Scene 12

The Sea Wall – early evening

Mrs Waggetts, rushing from The Ship Inn, shouts a warning:

Mrs Waggetts: Clear the inn! The press gang's on its way!

Meg Clouder sings ***Like Penelope:***

Meg: She watches on the beach
 For her ship to return
 To bring back her man home from sea.
 Taken away
 For a year and a day
 Press ganged for the navy.
 King George has decreed
 That he must do his duty
 But she begs
 “Bring him back to me!”

 There was a time when she was known-
 To dress so proud and fine
 Bright colours and bows in her hair
 But when he disappeared one night,
 With no time to say goodbye
 She felt that a part of her had died,
 The night had been stormy
 Thunder covered the land
 But when day broke
 The ship had taken her man.

Like Penelope she waits
 With her hand across her loom
 Threads of life are getting thin
 As she fights against her tomb.
 Is she destined to grow old
 Without her man to hold
 Or should she give him up to the sea.

She watches on the beach for her ship to return
My Bonny lad lies over the ocean
 My Bonny lad lies over the sea
My Bonny lad lies over the sea

Taken away for a year and a day
My Bonny lad lies over the ocean
 Bring back my Bonny to me
Bring back my Bonny to me

She watches on the beach for her ship to return
My Bonny lad lies over the ocean
 My Bonny lad lies over the sea
My Bonny lad lies over the sea

Taken away for a year and a day
My Bonny lad lies over the ocean
 Bring back my Bonny to me
Bring back my Bonny to me

And she begs: Bring him back to me! |
 Woe she cries: Bring him back to me!
 Woe she wails: Bring him back to me!
 Woe in the night: Bring him back to me!

The smuggler chorus enters stage right, headed by The Scarecrow begins:
The Four Hadleys . Mipps enters to join in slightly later.

Dr Syn/ Chorus: You may be a plague along the coast
 And take honest men from their homes
 But no longer will you crew your ships
 With the men of Romney Marsh.

You say the navy needs more men
 And will get them anyway they can
 But you will no longer crew your ships
 With the men of Romney Marsh.

The Press Gang enters stage left, (this depicts them entering The Ship Inn) headed by Mr Stubbard. The two parties do not see each other.

Press Gang c) Watch out for the stragglers,
The one's they won't miss
And bowl them out, bowl them out,
and drag them to the ship

A thump on the head,
to those left behind
And bowl them out, bowl them out, and take a little trip.

Tub Carrier: An ill wind blew into The Ship
It made the blood run cold
Mr Stubbard's press gang
Acting big and bold...

Company: Of course the tavern was already cleared
So no victims could be snared
The look-outs had done their job
And information shared.

As the press gang moved along the wall
The City of London would vacate
Punters would hide in The Ocean Inn
To keep out of their way...

When the press gang went on to The Ocean
Punters came back to The Ship
And so a merry dance was led
leaving the press gang an empty trip

Mipps enters, passing the smugglers, to the space depicting the interior of The Ship Inn. He strikes a 'classic Richard III' pose to make himself too old and unfit to be wanted by a press gang - much to the amusement of Mrs Waggetts

Mr Mipps: I was able to go around
unmolested you see
Despite my regal bearing
And youthful physique
By dragging my leg and acting infirm
(*One hump or two Mrs Waggetts*)
The press gang I fear was not tempted – to take me.

Mr Mipps I got talking to Mr Stubbard
At the bar of The Ship
Told him of the phantoms
Keeping men from their drink.
Ghostly riders scaring locals at night
He guessed it was the owlers
He was pitching - for a fight.

Press Gang c) Watch out for the stragglers,
The one's they won't miss
And bowl them out, bowl them out,
and drag them to the ship
A thump on the head,
to those left behind
And bowl them out, bowl them out,
and take a little trip.

Dr Syn /Chorus You may be a plague along the coast
And take honest men from their homes
But no longer will you crew your ships
With the men of Romney Marsh.

You say the navy needs more men
And will get them anyway they can
But you will no longer crew your ships
With the men of Romney Marsh.

Members of the press gang are seen to harass locals. Cast members are seen to depict old men or women.

Mr Mipps Their presence began to spoil our town
They were scaring the women,
and the men hidden about
The school was closed and the church was empty
They were even searching houses –
they were a menace in the streets

Young Hadley: Young Hadley was caught out late one night
He got jumped by the press gang and was taken away.
Trying to get the doctor out for my sick wife!
Mr Mipps: He was dragged to the cutter anchored - in the bay

The press gang thumps and drags off Young Hadley.

Hadley's two brothers and father complained
But the Squire said the problem could not be changed
To make things worse on their way back to The Ship
They were jumped by the press gang - and taken away.

Stubbard addresses his men.

Stubbard That little sexton gets talkative when drunk
I've fairly bled him dry.
I know there's a run tomorrow night

The Sexton assures me that if we hide at Black's Farm
We'll see the phantoms ride by.
And at least we'll get the odd ones left behind

Press Gang c) Watch out for the stragglers,
The one's they won't miss
And bowl them out, bowl them out,
and drag them to the ship

A thump on the head,
to those left behind
And bowl them out, bowl them out,
and take a little trip.

Dr Syn/ Chorus You may be a plague along the coast
And take honest men from their homes
But no longer will you crew your ships
With the men of Romney Marsh.

You say the navy needs more men
And will get them anyway they can
But you will no longer crew your ships
With the men of Romney Marsh.

Scene 13

Black's Farm / The beach – late at night.

The press gang are ambushed by the smugglers and marched off to the beach at gun point.

Tub Carrier: So the press gang walked into the Scarecrow's trap
The press gang were pressed and the Hadleys avenged

Scarecrow: Let's see if these lads can do an honest trade
And have the strength to carry brandy kegs.

Spare the youngsters, your powder monkeys
Shame on you for bringing them here
They shall have a little adventure tonight
Then return them safe don't fear.

The press gang, with the exception of the two powder monkeys/drummer boys, are ordered to take off their boots and are put to work. The boys are allowed to watch, being fed and watered and generally made welcome.

Tub Carrier: So the press gang was marched down to Dungeness
After taking away their shoes
Two hours of hobbling around in the dark
blind folded and carrying booze

Scarecrow: And now my lads you two are released
Give my message to Admiral Troubridge.
I have pressed your press gang.
They are now in my employ
Until you act on my terms.

Scarecrow: “When the four Hadleys are restored to their homes.
I will send your sailors to you.
The Hadleys are not smugglers, but men of the Marsh
and I would take their part.
On receipt of this message you have twenty four hours
to make up your mind and comply.
If the Hadleys are not returned by then,
the Navy will be ten shy”

Tub Carrier: “You must further agree to take your press gangs away
And no longer darken Romney Marsh.”
The boys were then blindfolded & led away.
And the press gang was left in the dark.

The boys leave.

Tub Carrier: Admiral Troubridge reluctantly agreed
And hoped the Scarecrow would keep
his side of the bargain...
To lose face was bad enough
But then to lose his ten men
Could be the end of his career.

Scene 14

The Sea Wall – night time early morning

The story reaches its conclusion with ***The Scarecrow Rides Tonight Reprise***. Scarecrow, Hellspite, Curlew, Tub Carrier and other smugglers arrive at the sea wall to watch a boat chase off the coast from a safe distance.

Company: C1 Ride hard this fearful night
 Don't give up till morning light
 The dragoons have you in their sights
The Scarecrow rides tonight

Ride hard this fearful night
 Don't give up till morning light
 The dragoons have you in their sights
The Scarecrow rides tonight

Mipps: V1 Doctor Syn on his little white pony
 Went out on the Marsh tonight
 Delivering alms to the needy folk
 On the outskirts out of sight.

V2 While he was away
 Riders swarmed down to the coast
 Ghostly spectral horsemen
 At their head the Scarecrow rode

Boats are seen approaching in the distance.

B1 The Scarecrow's fleet sailed in
 Round the edge of Dymchurch Bay
 The Scarecrow gave a laugh
 As the Revenue boat gave chase.

The fleet all got away
 With one small lugger left afloat
 The crew jumped ship and escaped
 And the Revenue captured the boat

In a corner of the stage the Scarecrow's boat is seen close to.

B1a The revenue brought the brandy barrels ashore
 And read the inscription that they bore

Scarecrow: C2 Your pressgang reports for duty
 (as read by with the Scarecrow's compliments.
 Revenue men) I now return them to you
 Packed in these brandy kegs

My lugger is now past its prime
 It can hardly stay afloat
 But you can have it as my gift
 To take your press gang home

Gehenna Jig

C4 *Instrumental*

The revenue men are seen to break into the barrels allowing the press gang to escape out of them. They are showing the effects of being in an enclosed space but are otherwise unharmed.

Company: C Ride hard this fearful night
 Don't give up till morning light
 The dragoons have you in their sights
The Scarecrow rides tonight

Ride hard this fearful night
 Don't give up till morning light
 The dragoons have you in their sights
The Scarecrow rides tonight

The Scarecrow rides tonight
The Scarecrow rides tonight
The Scarecrow rides tonight
The Scarecrow rides tonight

The scene ends with Scarecrow, Hellspite, Curlew, Tub Carrier and other smugglers on the sea wall cheering at their success over the navy and revenue men. In the foreground while other backs are turned. Scarecrow and Curlew pull up their cowls and kiss. The piece ends with Scarecrow confirmed as master of Romney Marsh and reconciled in his love life. Hellspite turns and gives him the thumbs up. At the close Hellspite/Mipps is grabbed by Mrs Waggetts and, resigned to the fact, they both smile and stay arm in arm.

