



**INFLATION:** Wigan's Gilbert and Sullivan society are hosting a fund raising concert in aid of stroke victims. Pictured at their rehearsal, with Living Sculpture balloons, (from left) Gwyneth Holt, Graham Last and Bill Johnson

SCRAPBOOKING EXTRAVAGANZA

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# BACKING SINGERS

BY NATALIE WALKER

**MEMBERS** of a music society in Wigan have used their personal experiences with a debilitating disease to raise money for a local stroke support group.

Wigan's Gilbert and Sullivan Society is holding a concert at St Peter's Pavilion in Hindley on May 8, from 7.30pm in aid of Think Ahead Community Stroke Group, based in Wigan.

They will sing a variety of classics from the Gilbert and Sullivan repertoire, along with songs from other shows. The event is of particular significance for Gwyneth Holt, the society's vice-chairman.

Her dad, James Moss, of Liverpool, died aged 82 after several severe strokes.

Gwyneth, who lives in Wigan, said: "After a number of strokes my dad was left debilitated and a final stroke sadly took his life.

"He was a gentle and gracious man and the impact the strokes had upon his quality of life and the family makes me want to give something back to others that have been similarly affected.

"There are other society members whose families have been affected by stroke. For example, our chairman Bill Johnson, Jennifer Santus, and a friend of Think Ahead, Graham Last - it's close to our hearts."

The concert will get the society geared up for the following morning, when they

## Musicians support group

take part in Living Sculpture in Market Place, Wigan town centre at 10am. They will distribute red balloons for the sculpture, along with raffle cards for the prize of a half-season ticket for Wigan Warriors.

Society chairman Bill Johnson said: "We are really looking forward to being part of this Living Sculpture. It sounds like it will be fun and provide a visual representation of how many people are affected by stroke in Wigan each year."

Mike Aspinall of Think Ahead said: "We are delighted the Gilbert and Sullivan Society chose our organisation to benefit from their concert. It is very kind that they recognise us for the work we do throughout Wigan and Leigh."

The Gilbert and Sullivan Society has been a part of the community for over 50 years and remains a self-financing volunteer group.