

Wolverton Gilbert & Sullivan Society

President
Angela Bowen

Chairman
Graham Breeze

Secretary
Chris Worton

**Web site: Wolvertongands.co.uk
Registered Charity No: 269194**

August 2012

Dear Member/Patron/Friend,

2011/12 Season

A huge and heart felt 'Thank You' and congratulations to everyone that was involved in last year's season. This was a extremely busy and challenging year, but we certainly rose to it. Productions of **Cox & Box**, **The Sorcerer**, **Godspell**, and **Merrie England**, plus the Christmas and May concerts with Wolverton Light Orchestra. I think we can be very proud (and more) of all our achievements this year. Then there were all our social activities and theatre trips too. Again a massive 'Thank You' and I hope that you found it both enjoyable and rewarding. So, what's next?

2012/13 SEASON PRODUCTIONS

Concert for Willen Hospice, Saturday 27 October 2012

Over the last couple of years we have lost many dear friends and members, and we would like to celebrate their lives and contribution to the Society with a charity concert for Willen Hospice. We will especially be remembering Charlie Brooker, Tom ClaytonRuby Easterbrook, Derek Fielder, Fred Jewell, Roy Mallard, Fred Mitchell, John Perrott and Tony Selby. (Apologies if I've missed anyone – please let me know). The concert will be on Saturday 27 October, at St George's Church, Wolverton. It is hoped that we can put together a varied and exciting programme to reflect and honour our friends which will include some opera and operetta selections as well as G&S, and a touch of ABBA! This will be a free event, with a retiring collection, which has always worked well in the past.

This concert will be open to all members, past and present and we also invite friends from other groups and societies that our friends were involved with, so please feel free to invite them to join us. Rehearsals will be on Fridays 19th & 26th October, and soloists and small groups on Wednesdays 17th & 24th October.

I know that there are other events and concerts taking place in MK on this night, (we did look and try to change the date) but it wasn't possible without postponing the concert for yet another 12 months. It would a fitting tribute to have as many singers as we can for this concert. Please let me know if you are able to take part, and if you have any ideas for pieces that should be included.

Spring Show 2013 - 'The Yeomen of the Guard'

Our main show for 2013 will be **'The Yeomen of the Guard'**, 19 - 23 March at Stantonbury Campus Theatre.

The production team is Richard Fraser (Director), Mike Crofts (MD) and Ros Whatmore (Accompanist). We are very pleased to welcome Richard on board for this season's production and very excited by his ideas. **Yeomen** will be set traditionally and promises to be great fun.

First rehearsal will be Friday 7 September, at the Children's Centre, Stony Stratford.

Auditions will be held on 5 October and details will follow shortly.

Anyone wanting to buy a score or lib, please let me know so I can get that sorted.

Productions of Yeomen locally -

Peterborough G&S ~ 12-15 September

Key Theatre, Peterborough Embankment Road, Peterborough, PE1 1EF
Booking Information: 01733 207239

<http://www.peterboroughgands.org.uk/>

Stamford G&S ~ 2 – 6 October

The Corn Exchange, Stamford Corn Exchange Theatre, Broad Street, Stamford, Lincolnshire, PE9 1PX
Box Office 01780 766455

<http://www.stamfordgandsplayers.co.uk/>

Wolverton Light Orchestra Concerts

The Christmas concert is on Sunday 7th December at Stantonbury. As well as the usual Christmas music, the concert will have the theme of West End Shows, featuring selections from My Fair Lady, Camelot, Les Miserables and JC Superstar. Rehearsals will be on Wednesday 5 December and Friday 7 December. Please pencil these in your diary and tell your friends.

The spring concert, in May, is moving away from the patriotic Proms feel, and will feature Music from the Movies. More details to follow later.

Summer Show 2013

No decision has been taken for this slot yet, but there are 1 or 2 ideas floating around, but if you have thoughts let the Committee know.

Spring Show 2014 and beyond.....

The Committee are looking ahead and want to start to plan for our 40th Anniversary show in 2015. So, our main shows for the next couple of years will be:

2014 **Patience**
2015 **HMS Pinafore & The Zoo**

We are also looking into the possibility of reviving **Princess Ida** as the Summer Show in 2015 and taking it to the Buxton Festival. Please let the Committee have your thoughts about this and whether you'd be interested in taking part. We know it's early, but fail to plan, plan to fail!

We would also like to hear from anyone who would be interested in forming a sub-committee to take the 40th Anniversary celebrations on, which could be a dinner, party, merchandise, etc., as well as looking into the costs and arrangements of going to Buxton. Please speak to Chris or Karen if you can help.

SOCIAL STUFF

The Society's Barn Dance - Saturday 29 September

What better way to spend an Autumn evening, than swinging your partner and stripping the willow! A really fun evening was had by all that attended this Social last year, and enjoyed it so much, we're doing it again. We have booked Cosgrove Village Hall from 7.00pm and the band, Broken Sixpence with their caller Sam Moylan-Heydt, so it promises to be another great night of fun. Supper, tea and coffee will be provided, but bring your own drink. This is open all family, friends and acquaintances, the more the merrier. Tickets are £10 per adult and £6 per child and are available from Karen at rehearsal, on FaceBook or on MK 316147. Speak to Karen for more details and tickets!

'Jack the Ripper, the musical' - 10 to 13 October 2012

Putteridge Bury G&S Society present this musical based on the notorious East End murders of 1888, directed by Paula, at The Queen Mother Theatre, Walsworth Road, Hitchin, SG4 9SP.

Join the hunt for the Ripper in this reconstruction of the awful and mesmerising crime. Great music!

Tickets are available from the Box Office on **01462 455166** (please leave a message) or you can ring PBGS directly on **07946 264886**, or see Paula or Richard at Yeomen rehearsals. Full priced tickets are £13 and concessions £11 (Wednesday and Thursday only). <http://www.queenmothertheatre.org.uk/>

'Blues In The Night' - October 2012

Roundabout Theatre Company are presenting **Blues In The Night**, a dynamite revue of 26 HOT numbers that tell the sweet, sexy, sorrowful experiences three women have with the lying, cheating snake of a man who does them wrong !
Wednesday 10th & Thursday 11th Madcap Theatre, Wolverton
Friday 12th Sherington Village Hall
Saturday 13th Pavenham Village Hall

All performances start at 7.30 pm. Tickets : £8 in Advance / £10 on the Door Box Office Tel: 01908 674752
Box Office Email: rcmiltonkeynes@yahoo.co.uk

'A Night at the Musicals' - 24 to 26 October 2012

Sit back, relax and let Company MK take you on a journey through some of the best musicals around. From Les Miserables to Me and My Girl, from Chicago to Sweet Charity, you'll hear a great selection of musical hits! Over the past 20 years, Company MK has been producing top quality shows – this is chance to relive some previous productions and catch a glimpse at the future! Join us for a fabulous night of musical entertainment. This is being staged at the Chrysalis Theatre, Japonica Lane, Milton Keynes, MK15 9JY at 7.30 pm, Tickets: £12 adults, £8 15s and under; Visit www.ticketsource.co.uk/companymk or call 01908 265180

'Call Me Madam'

This Irving Berlin classic is being staged at the Union Theatre, London, 3-27 October. If anyone fancies a London theatre trip, please let me know and we can arrange a date. Tickets are £18. <http://www.uniontheatre.biz/#>

'Kindly Keep It Covered' – A comedy by David Freeman

The Community Players proudly present our 2012 show – a fast, furious and frantic farce, which originally starred Terry Scott.

Roland Dickerby, formerly of the Kindly Mutual Insurance Co., runs a health farm with his wife Julia, bought with the proceeds of a hefty insurance payout on the demise of Julia's first husband, the charming rogue, Sidney. Life isn't easy for Roland; a healthy lifestyle is not exactly his cup of carrot juice, his formidable mother-in-law, Olivia, keeps a very beady eye on him, and he is constantly harassed by portly guests manically in search of carbohydrates of the sweet variety. But today, Fate has something extra special in store for Roland: Sidney has decided to resurrect himself and turns up at the farm, just as Vanessa, the wife of Roland's ex-boss from the Kindly Mutual, checks in for a health-giving visit.....

Come join us for a hilarious evening to find out what happens next! Performances are Wednesday 31 October to Saturday 3 November 2012 at 7.30pm, George Street Community Centre, Fenny Stratford, Bletchley, ticket prices Wednesday £4.00, Thursday £6.00 (£5.00 concessions), Friday and Saturday £6.00 - Booking open now, call 01908 373637.

OTHER STUFF

AGM Date

A date for your diary. This year's AGM will be held on Friday 28 September. Formal papers will follow soon, but please give some thought as to whether you want to serve on the committee.

NODA Long Service Awards

If anyone else thinks they are due a NODA long service award, please let me to get an application form. Most awards are about £15.

Subs Are Now Due

A reminder that Subs are now due for this season at the rate of £25/£20. Please let Wayne or Chris have your payment.

NODA Nomination for Pirates

Angela and I went to the NODA award ceremony at Loughborough, as we had been nominated for best musical show in our region for our production of **Pirates of Penzance**. Unfortunately we were unsuccessful as MKAOS won with their performances of "FOOTLOOSE", (congrats to them), and they didn't come to see **Godspell**. Never mind there is always next year and our consolation is that we are very consistent in being nominated which shows that we are of a certain standard.

Sorcerer DVDs

There are still some unclaimed DVDs of 'Sorcerer', please speak to Graham. (There are a couple of spares!)

AND FINALLY,

General News

- MK Community Foundation Raffle, we raised £100, which was a somewhat disappointing return, but better than nothing. Well done and thank you, to everyone that helped, and especially Kim for all the hard work organising it. We plan to take part in this year's raffle, so please do all you can to help.
- A huge 'Thank You' from Margaret Mallard to everyone that made donations in memory of Roy, which totalled £1600
- Congratulations to everyone that's had a significant birthday this year, especially Madam P's, which I forgot!
- Our best wishes to Jean Ashby who's out of hospital and recovering well after her fall earlier this year.
- Wayne's become a great uncle for the first time, although he insists he's always been a great uncle.
- Congratulations to several members took part in the Midnight Moo on Saturday 14th July (Cath, Karen, Anke, Lesley W, Nuala, Hayley, Jackie B, Jude). All completed within 4 hours and The Heart and Music crowd have raised around £1800 for Willen Hospice. They all loved the atmosphere so much and are so proud to have done it, that they're considering signing up for next year. If any ladies fancy joining on this 10 mile walk around north MK, starting and finishing at Midsummer Place in the centre, starting at midnight, please speak to Karen (she's super keen and has already registered!)
- Congratulations to Liv Spencer who's got a Christmas Season in 'Wind in the Willows' at Birmingham Rep. Sounds like we may have to go and cheer her on, one matinee!
- Thanks to everyone for your messages and condolence cards for the passing of my Mum over the summer, having lost her battle against cancer. Wayne and I would like to thank you for your thoughts and prayers.
- Next Committee meeting, Monday 8th October.

See you all on the 7th, and the Barn Dance on the 29th,

Graham Breeze
Chair