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Wolverton G&S Society to Stage Gilbert & Sullivan's "Patience"

Wolverton Gilbert & Sullivan Society is delighted to announce its upcoming production of Gilbert & Sullivan's beloved comic opera, "Patience." This witty satire of Aestheticism will be performed at the Stantonbury Theatre from Wednesday 7th to Saturday 10th May 2025 at 7.30pm and is the last part of the society's 50th celebration year.

First performed at the old Opera Comique theatre on Aldwych in London, Patience is notable for becoming the first show performed at the Savoy Theatre when it moved there in October 1881, thus also becoming the first theatrical production in the world entirely lit by electricity. Their sixth operatic collaboration, Patience is Gilbert and Sullivan's satire on the aesthetic movement of the 1870s-1880s and pokes fun at fads, superficiality, vanity and hypocrisy.

The aesthetic movement, known as "art for art's sake", prioritised beauty over practical concerns which was, by many, considered self-indulgent. The two poets in Patience, Bunthorne and Grosvenor, are frequently likened to Oscar Wilde. The show is one of G&S's most popular and has a lot of funny dialogue and rousing music.

Thanks to the generous support of an anonymous donor, the production will feature authentic dragoon uniforms for the Guards and exquisite Aesthetic dresses for the 'lovesick' maidens, ensuring a truly authentic and visually stunning presentation. It features a talented cast of local performers together with a vibrant orchestra.

Tickets are now on sale priced **£20.00 for adults and £5.00 for children** and can be purchased at **wolvertongands.co.uk**

Follow us on Facebook or Instagram @wolvertongands for news and updates.

Images courtesy of Robert Skears Shotz4U

About Wolverton G&S Society:

The Wolverton Gilbert & Sullivan Society is a local amateur dramatic society dedicated to bringing the works of Gilbert & Sullivan to life for audiences in Milton Keynes and the surrounding areas.

Media information

The full text of this press release and downloadable images relating to it can be found at wolvertongands.co.uk/media-kit

Contact: Ruth Martin or John Bailes publicity@wolvertongands.co.uk

NOTES FOR EDITORS: Our History

In the summer of 1974 Fred Cornford, a Wolverton Urban District Councillor, was cycling along Church Street in the famous railway town minding his own business when a car drew up alongside him. The occupant was Arnold Jones, the conductor of the Wolverton Orchestral Society, one of his many musical endeavours. He told Fred that he was thinking of forming a Gilbert and Sullivan Society and would Fred chair the first meeting, which he duly did.

Another friend, Bert Coleman, who worked at McCorquodales (a Wolverton-based printing company established in 1868) came along and invited another friend, Clarence Gill. He, in turn, invited a young singer, Angela Bowen. Angela is the current President of the Society. Other early members came from the Works, McCorquodales or from local churches, mainly West End Methodist Church in Wolverton.

In May 1975, the newly formed 'Wolverton and District Gilbert and Sullivan Society' performed HMS Pinafore. In the programme, the Chairman expressed the hope that the audience would find it a pleasant and entertaining occasion. It seems they did because we are still at it! One of the vice-presidents of the new society was a certain John Dankworth.

The Society has performed all but one of Gilbert and Sullivan's pieces, including the lesser-known ones – *Utopia Limited* and *The Grand Duke* – in that 50-year period. In addition, they have included two pieces written by Sullivan without his usual partner – *Cox and Box* and *The Zoo*.

Wolverton Gilbert & Sullivan Society