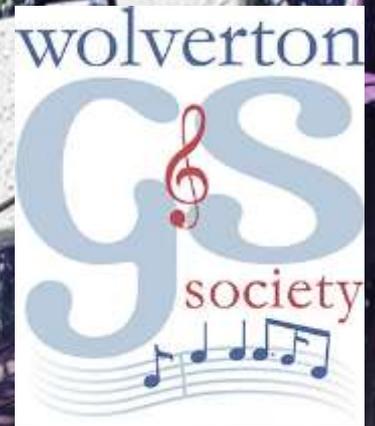


MEMBERS' NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2019



Sadly, 'IOLANTHE' has now gone, but...



the Mayor loved your show!



.....and Stephan made it on to the display board and prepared for 'The Sorcerer'.



and Secklow 105.5 FM Local Radio raved about it! (See page 3).....



..... and the audiences were delighted by your costumes and performances.

SO, WELL DONE TO YOU ALL

including all those who worked so hard behind the scenes.

IOLANTHE REVIEWS

Another parliamentary mess...this time in the 19th century and, mercifully, not about our future in Europe. The Lord Chancellor's pretty ward is refused marriage with a shepherd who is half-man half-fairy, the assembled lustful peers are being sorely distracted by said young lady, and the fairies have installed her swain in the Commons with a guaranteed majority which is about to be used to create a law to ensure that all members of the House of Lords are to be appointed according to merit. Underlying this are Gilbert and Sullivan's brilliant - and still surprisingly relevant - satire of the class system, politics and the law. Wolverton Gilbert and Sullivan Society presented us with a delightful treat of a production.

There were some outstanding performances. Leading by example, Director Graham Breeze took on the role of shepherd Strephon with a great deal of skill and gusto. His stage partner, Phyllis, was played by Catherine Lee, who has a voice as clear as crystal and a very well-judged stage presence; the role involves a lot of eavesdropping and Catherine judged her reactions to what she was overhearing to perfection. Roger Whatmore was just right as the Lord Chancellor, confidently and very competently demonstrating his self-importance ('When I went to the Bar') but also his human frailties ('Love Unrequited Robs Me'). And many of the most comic moments of the evening were provided by Paula Fraser, looking every inch the Queen of the Fairies and whose lovely comic timing enabled her to judge perfectly the balance between her regal status and more 'mortal' feelings, especially when presented with Constable Willis - played with a knowing wit by John Douglas.

Liz Carter gave us a suitably maternal Iolanthe and Alan Bennett (as the Earl of Mountararat) and Graham Mitchell (as Earl Tolloller) made a perfect comic duo - I loved their duet 'Tho' P'raps I May incur'.

Both choruses - fairies and Peers - worked well with some good singing and acting, though I am not sure that their diction was as clear as it could have been.

A superb 16-piece orchestra was lead by MD Mike Crofts, assisted by leader Lorna Morton.

Costumes (some hired) were magnificent - well done the wardrobe team - and lighting, scenery and make-up (the fairies sparkled) were excellent.

Many thanks to Wolverton G & S Society for inviting me and your hospitality at the show.

Alex Wood (NODA) 28th March 2019.

IOLANTHE REVIEWS (continued)

Well what an unexpected delight Iolanthe turned out to be! I'm a big Mikado and Pirates of Penzance fan but was unfamiliar with Iolanthe but this Gilbert and Sullivan operetta is not only darkly comic and amusing but so utterly pertinent, it may have been written today and re-titled "Brexit for Fairies".

Gilbert had taken pot shots at the aristocracy before, but in this "fairy opera", the House of Lords is lampooned as a bastion of the ineffective, privileged and dim-witted. Sound familiar? The political party system and other institutions also come in for a dose of satire. This, G & S, seventh work together is brilliantly presented by Wolverton Gilbert and Sullivan Society.

The fairies, all gothic and sexy open the show led by Iolanthe, Liz Carter, who is excellent but it is Paula Fraser as Queen of the Fairies, who steals the show, borrowing heavily from Queenie from Blackadder, with a touch of Olivia Coleman and Miranda, with her archness and sarcasm. Brilliant!

It's the first time I've seen Jo Bigg, as Leila, have a part in a show and she's really rather good. Catherine Lee, (who appeared on my show a few weeks ago), is a newcomer to the Society and she plays Phyllis, the ingénue, just beautifully, her voice is a delight, and she manages to be both cottequish and manipulative in equal measure. Director Graham Breeze who also plays Strephon, (who is half fairy – his upper half – his legs are mortal) manages to convey so much with just a raised Roger Moore eyebrow and possesses a wonderful singing voice - I had forgotten just how much I enjoy watching him perform.

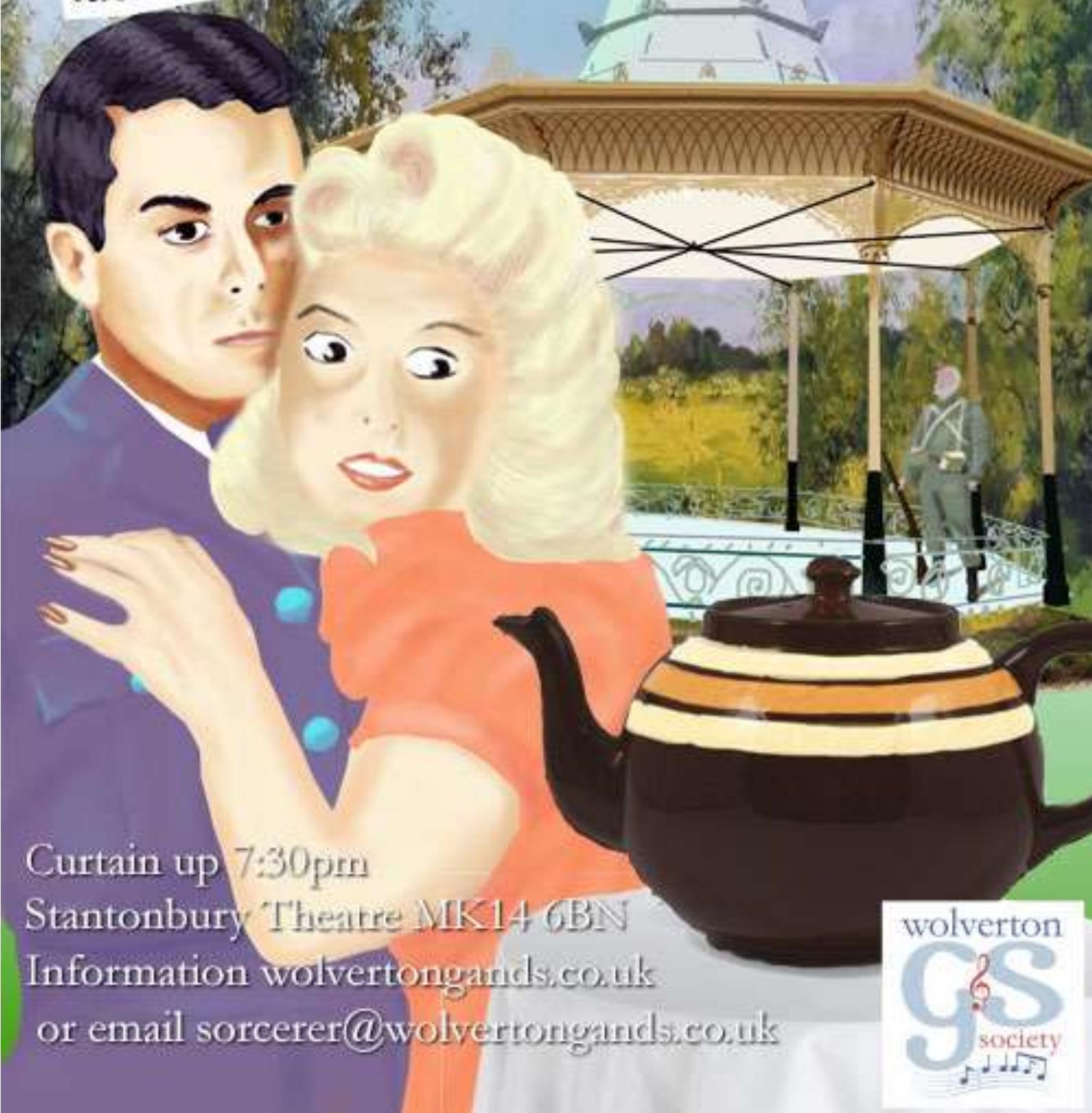
Roger Whatmore as the Lord Chancellor, delivers the notoriously tricky patter song, which is so complex and wordy, yet so very G & S. He's spritely, lively and his interaction with the Earls' Tolloller, Graham Mitchell and Mountarat, Alan Bennett, is hilarious. John Douglas as Constable Willis is not on stage for very long, but he certainly makes an impact, delivering a perfect deadpan performance.

The audience were all thoroughly engaged, laughed uproariously at all the political jibes, and the pokes at the establishment but I think the overriding message was, this is uncannily like a day in the Houses of Parliament at present. G & S were so ahead of their time.

I cannot believe I have waited this long to see a Wolverton G & S production, but I shall be attending all their shows in the future as not only have they introduced me to a new operetta, they are slick, professional, sing unamplified, no bells and whistles and simply rely on home-grown talent to produce a top-class show. Bravo! Nancy Stevens (Secklow Radio 105.5 FM)

THE SORCERER

Wed 17th July to Sat 20th July 2019
Tickets: Stantonbury Theatre
01908 324466 stantonburytheatre.co.uk



Curtain up 7:30pm

Stantonbury Theatre MK14 6BN

Information wolvertongands.co.uk

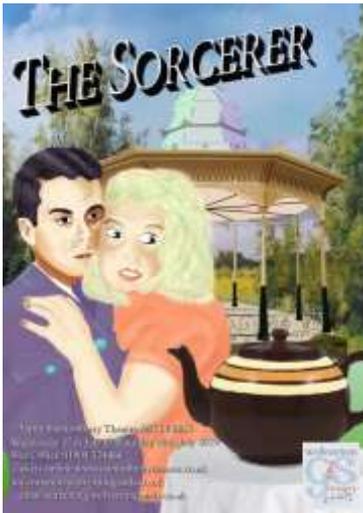
or email sorcerer@wolvertongands.co.uk

wolverton





WHAT ELSE ARE WE DOING IN 2019?



Our summer show will be
“THE SORCERER”
(WORLD WAR II STREET PARTY STYLE)
between 17—20 July 2019
at Stantonbury Theatre 7.30 p.m.
Rehearsals will be Wednesdays and Fridays
from Friday, 12th April onwards.

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP?

There will be posters, booking forms and flyers available soon at rehearsals.
Please display the posters and flyers at work or wherever you meet up with
groups of people. Your society **NEEDS YOU!**

A copy of the poster is on Page 4 if you are able to print it.

DO YOU KNOW ANYONE WHO WOULD LIKE TO ADVERTISE WITH US?

Like any amateur organisation we need to boost our funds from other sources.

One way has been to encourage local companies to advertise in our programme. Do you know of anyone who would like to advertise with us in
THE SORCERER programme.

1/4 page £30, 1/2 page £50, full page £100, back page £150.

You will know that the programmes are in full colour on glossy quality paper.

THE ‘SORCERER’ BANNERS

will be displayed at Stantonbury Leisure Centre/Theatre and the
Woburn Emporium (formerly Wyvale Garden Centre Woburn Sands).

If you are involved in another show please let us know so we can arrange to
display one with you. They are 2m high x 1m wide and take up little space.

GET INVOLVED ON FACEBOOK AND SOCIAL MEDIA

facebook

The Closed Group page

facebook.com/groups/wolvertongands

This is solely for members, cast, orchestra, crew and close friends of WGSS.

facebook

The Public Page

facebook.com/wolvertongands

The Public Page is where the majority of our Social Media posting is from . The posts also duplicate on Twitter and Instagram.

Ruth does the majority of posting on the page and will schedule various posts to publicise THE SORCERER in the next few weeks. Louise does a boost from time to time.



Sharing is Caring!

Don't forget to "share" our Facebook posts when you see them on your timeline. It's great to "like" but if you "share" as well, then we'll reach a much wider audience. Stick in a comment as well and maybe tag a friend or two who might be particularly interested (type @[friend's name] and it will appear as a link highlighted in blue)

Please make sure you "like" and "share it".

Would any of your friends or family want to become a Friend of Wolverton G & S Society?

For a minimum donation of £25 per person, they will receive a complimentary programme for the productions and invitations to our social events. They would also have our grateful thanks for sharing our love of live theatre.

For further details please contact: Karen Platt, Friends Secretary, 9 Harvester Close, Greenleys, Milton Keynes, MK12 6LE.

What your friends are up to in 2019

Company MK have a concert coming up on 8th May at The Ridgeway Centre.

'MIXED AND MASHED'

Sian Mander is involved in this.

<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/companymk>

Members of the **Northampton Gilbert and Sullivan Society** have been invited to join us for **The Sorcerer** to help boost our summer cast numbers.

For their 65th Anniversary they performed H.M.S. Pinafore with Trial by Jury at the Royal Theatre in March of this year.

Heart & Music are doing a concert in Northampton soon. Cath Bromley, Hayley Rance and John Douglas are all involved in this. More details will be forthcoming.

The Mayor's Charity 2019

The Bus Shelter MK

"Sleep is Only the beginning"

This is a homeless shelter on wheels designed to reduce rough sleeping in Milton Keynes. Homelessness can hit anyone and with your help we can provide over 5800 safe, warm nights for people forced to sleep on the streets and help them find a positive future. If you wish to volunteer or donate towards the scheme, please contact them on

info@thebussheltermk.org

General Data Protection Regulation

If you no longer wish to receive the Wolverton G & S Society Newsletter, please email secretary@wolvertongands.co.uk

'THE SORCERER' SOCIAL EVENTS

Please anticipate the following events:

- Tuesday 16th July Lunch
Thursday 18th July Curry Night
Friday 19th July After show party



2020 DATES FOR YOUR DIARY.

We already have 22nd to 28th March 2020
pencilled in for next Spring's show,
and 21st to 27th June 2020
for the summer show.



DO YOU WANT TO KNOW THE REHEARSAL DETAILS ?

1. GO TO OUR WEB SITE wolvertongands.co.uk
2. SIGN IN ON 'MEMBERS ONLY'
3. CLICK ON 'CALENDAR' and there you are!

THIS IS THE BEST WAY TO CHECK ON WHAT IS HAPPENING IN WG&SS.
IF YOU CANNOT ATTEND A REHEARSAL FOR ANY SHOW, PLEASE E-MAIL:

[attendance @wolvertongands.co.uk](mailto:attendance@wolvertongands.co.uk)