

MEMBERS' NEWSLETTER

JULY/AUGUST 2019



WELL DONE TO EVERYONE.

"What a fantastic show"

"We enjoyed every minute of it"





We didn't realise WG&SS were so good"

"It was first class"

"Wow! What a production"

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL THE CAST AND DIRECTORS ON A FANTASTIC PERFORMANCE.

Early photos from Robert Skears of the opening parts of The Sorcerer. Many more photos from Robert will be displayed in our website shortly.



'THE SORCERER' REVIEWS

NODA REVIEW

Wolverton Gilbert and Sullivan Society – The Sorcerer Thursday, 18th July 2019

Whilst not the most popular of Gilbert and Sullivan's works *The Sorcerer* is still regularly performed, 142 years after its premiere. Hardly surprising since, though an early work, many of the signs are there of what is to come in the more popular pieces - clever satire, a patter song, a love duet and so on. In brief, Alexis Pointdextre, an idealistic young man holds the belief that when it comes to matters of the heart, rank should not count and following his marriage to Aline he commits himself to proving this theory by employing a sorcerer who creates a love potion, causing those imbibe to fall asleep, only to fall in love with the first person they see. Chaos ensues when some rather inappropriate matches are formed - and the spell cast by the sorcerer will only be broken by the sacrifice of Alexis or The Sorcerer himself. This was a very entertaining evening.

All the principals worked hard at their roles and overall the singing was of a good standard. I was especially impressed by Claire Moore (Constance), whose mooning over the vicar, Dr Daly, was eventually rewarded after a brief and uncomfortable 'spell' with The Notary ('Have Pity on my Lot'), and Catherine Lee (Aline), whose brief but very passionate - and very funny - fling with the aforesaid man of the cloth ('Oh, joyous boon! oh, mad delight') finally convinces Alexis (very ably played by Robert Kendrick) that his noble experiment has not worked.

Graham Mitchell has a fine and subtle sense of comedy, as well as a notable singing voice, enabling him to make the most of his part of Dr Daley, the vicar, and another regular Wolverton G&S cast member, Paula Fraser, drew out the comedy from her role as Lady Sangazure - I especially enjoyed her and Sir Marmaduke (Alan Bennett)'s duet 'Welcome Joy'.

And at the centre of this mayhem - The Sorcerer, John Wellington Wells, played with great comic and dramatic skill by Richard Fraser. The decision to set the play in the Second World War seemed rather random but, if nothing else it gave the opportunity for the sorcerer to be portrayed as a spiv, which, in the hands of Richard Fraser, worked incredibly well.

The chorus performed very well together though I think diction in the chorus numbers especially could be improved. A fine orchestra was ably led by MD Mike Crofts.

Special thanks are due to John Bailes, my host for the evening and the members of the cast who were kind enough to meet me during the interval.

Nancy Stevens Review – for local radio
Wolverton Gilbert and Sullivan Society – The Sorcerer
Friday, 19th July 2019

The villagers of Ploverleigh are in the throes of WWII and are celebrating the engagement of Alexis to Aline. Alexis has a plan to share the love by hiring a Sorcerer to brew a sleeping potion in the village teapot. The tainted cuppa causes all who drink it to fall madly in love with the first person they see on waking.....what could possibly go wrong?

The Sorcerer was my second viewing of Wolverton G & S, the first being, Iolanthe, which I so enjoyed, I'm afraid I was not nearly as enamoured of The Sorcerer, which was Gilbert & Sullivan's first production in 1877. However, it was more to do with the story than the cast. It simply didn't capture my imagination but I couldn't fault the singing, the chorus were excellent and most of the main characters were superb. Catherine Lee was as magnificent as she was in Iolanthe, her voice, simply perfect. Richard Fraser as The Sorcerer plays the role with the right degree of malevolence/a touch of Del Boy and a creepy David Copperfield – he's mesmerising. I loved the comic duo of Sir Marmaduke and Mrs Partlet, played by Alan and Kim Bennett respectively. Most amusing. The beautiful Claire Moore as Constance has a lovely tone to her voice and Graham Mitchell as Dr Daly (The Vicar) is very watchable. The authenticity of the 1940's costumes, the patter song and a light bright cast made The Sorcerer watchable but I think that G & S's collaborations only got better with time and then came Pinafore, then the hugely successful Pirates, the world-famous, Mikado, Yeoman and of course, The Gondoliers.

I look forward to seeing their next production which is Calamity Jane in March 2020.

NB. This is nothing to do with the Wolverton G & S and didn't detract from the show but I am appalled by the state of the seating at Stantonbury and in order to justify £17 for a ticket, immediate repairs should take place. I had to place my car-digan on the seat and it was so scratchy with huge chunks of foam missing from many of the seats. Please Stantonbury rectify this!

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

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.

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 REASON, PLEASE E-MAIL:

attendance@wolvertongands.co.uk

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



WHAT ELSE ARE WE DOING IN 2019?



Christmas Concert with the Wolverton Light Orchestra

**We have been invited to help
celebrate the start of the festive season
on Sunday 8th December.**

**The entertaining and wide-ranging
programme will include some of the**

**best-loved music from stage and screen, with plenty of Christmas favourites
and audience carols for everyone to join in!**

This ever-popular concert usually sells out early, so secure your tickets now

Tickets can be booked via the Venue website

<http://thevenuemk.com/index.php/what-s-on/all-events> .

or from Andy Amos by ringing 01296 715557

WHAT ARE YOUR FRIENDS DOING IN 2019?



9th—12th October 2019

**Putteridge Bury G&S always put on a
good show and this time it is**

IOLANTHE

**Come and support your fellow singers
and friends :**

Claire Moore as Phyllis

Richard Fraser is Lord Chancellor

Peter Davis is Willis

**Annie Parker is in the chorus
and Paula Fraser is Stage Manager**

WHAT ARE YOUR FRIENDS DOING IN 2019? (continued)

Graham Breeze is starring as Gomez in 'The Addams Family' at Harpenden Public Halls

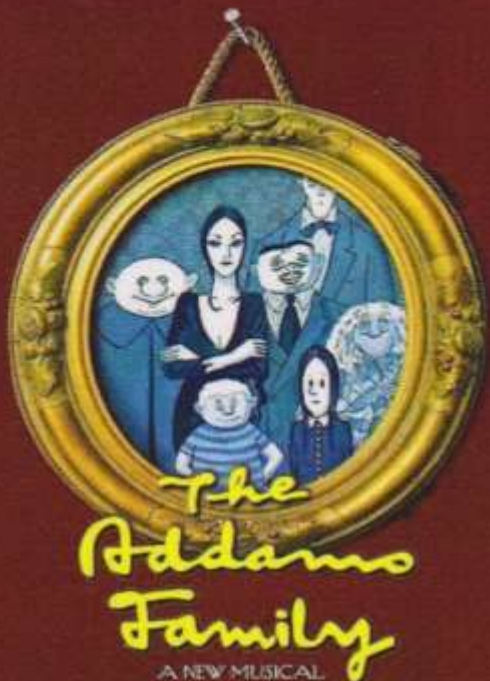
from 8th—12th October 2019

Also, Louise Thonger is a dead Ancestor and Nigel Harvey is Uncle Fester.

BOX OFFICE 01582 767525

[Www.ticketsource.co.uk/hmtc51](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/hmtc51)

or scan the code



**TICKETS from £15
ON SALE NOW**



2020 DATES FOR YOUR DIARY.

Please reserve 21st to 27th June 2020 for our Summer show.

Further details will be coming up later

CALAMITY

Jane



OUR NEXT BIG SHOW IN 2020
REHEARSALS START ON FRIDAY 6TH SEPTEMBER

Stantonbury Theatre 25 - 28 March 2020

Information wolvertongands.co.uk
or email calamity@wolvertongands.co.uk

Adapted by RONALD HANMER and PHIL PARK
From the stage play by CHARLES K. FREEMAN
after WARNER BROS. film written by JAMES COULANLON
Lyrics by PAUL FRANCIS WEBSTER
Music by SAMMY DAIN

This amateur production is presented by arrangement with Music Theatre International (Europe)
All authorised performance materials are also supplied by MTI Europe
www.mtishows.co.uk



CALAMITY JANE

The storyline

Deadwood City's two most famous peace officers, Calamity Jane and Wild Bill Hickock, get involved in saving the neck of Henry Miller, the local saloon operator.

It seems that "Millie" has been promoting a beautiful actress named Frances Fryer, but Frances turns out to be a male, Francis. Millie's attempt to cover up is soon unmasked by the angry miners, and only Calamity can cool the crowd with her trusty pistols.

To keep the peace, Calamity sets out for Chicago to bring back the miner's real heart-throb, Adelaide Adams. In Chicago Calamity mistakes Adelaide's maid, Katie Brown, for the actress and hauls her back to Deadwood.

Onstage Katie is greeted warmly, but breaks down and confesses that she is not the famous star. Calamity once more has to restore order and persuades the audience to give Katie a chance. They do, and she wins the heart of every male in town including Calamity's dashing love hope, Lt. Danny Gilmartin.

Calamity reluctantly overcomes her jealousy over losing Danny and discovers her true love for Wild Bill.

YIPPEEEEEEE!!!!

YOUR VICE PRESIDENT, ANGELA BOWEN

As you may know our President, Clarence Gill, has not been well recently and therefore Angela Bowen has kindly agreed to cover society presidential duties in the meantime.

When the society formed in 1974 as Wolverton (and District) Gilbert and Sullivan Society and when the Wolverton (Rail) Works was the largest employer in the Milton Keynes area, one of its

workers, Arnold Jones, was our musical director and also conductor of the Wolverton Light Orchestra. Just as Mike Crofts is today. With Fred Cornford (a colleague from the Works), Bert Coleman (an employee from McCorquodales, a Wolverton-based printing company established in 1868) and Clarence Gill (a Wolverton resident) they set up the society with Fred Cornford as Chairman.

Clarence, in turn, then invited a young singer, Angela Bowen and both Angela and Clarence are still involved in the society today. Angela was our President from 2010-15, and Clarence is, of course, our current President. Angela has an enormous experience of G and S having performed many times for the society. Her comments are therefore greatly valued at rehearsals, which she kindly attends to help swing things along.



Angela Bowen

General Data Protection Regulation

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

THANK YOU, KAREN AND ANDY.

**END OF SEASON BBQ
FRIDAY 26th JULY 2019**



Karen Platt and Andy Jones are hosting this year's end of season BBQ. They have hosted many, many BBQs over the years and we are extremely grateful to them both.

THANK YOU, KAREN AND ANDY.



THE SORCERER 2019

For just one more time

**Thank you to the Mayor,
Councillor Sam Crooks, who
visited us on Saturday and took
time out to speak with the cast.**

**The Mayor is pictured with
Catherine Lee (Aline) and Robert
Kendrick (Alexis)**

**Photo by Christopher Lee
(Yes, Cat's Dad).**