

MEMBERS' NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2020



FRANCES BYERS (21.09.1944 — 19.09.2020)



Our lovely friend, Frances Byers, passed away on 19th September, just short of her 76th birthday, in the Florence Nightingale Hospice near Leighton Buzzard. She had developed breast cancer some years ago and lately found it had returned. She was a brave fighter but sadly lost her battle. She will be greatly missed by all her many friends, who will remember her for her gentle and kind nature.

Born in Huddersfield, she trained as a nanny and enjoyed this work both in this country and in Italy. In the 1970s she married and subsequently had two children, Phillip and Lucy. Phillip had Down's Syndrome and, as a result, Frances worked tirelessly for the Mencap charity. Sadly, he passed away when just 18.

In the early 1980s she joined Leighton Linslade Amateur Operatic Society (later to become Leighton Musical Theatre) and took many parts, her favourite being Buttercup in HMS Pinafore. She was also in a choir and a band. Frances was very talented in both patchwork and needlework and sold many items in a craft shop. She was also greatly valued backstage with all her societies, making sure all the hired costumes were up to her high standard. She worked tirelessly to help us all stay thread free and with our hems intact at every performance.



Frances with Jean and Margaret

Always ready with a calm smile, naughty giggle and helpful spirit, Frances will be sorely missed.

(thanks to Sian Clifford)

YOUR CHAIRMAN SPEAKING

Firstly, our thoughts are with Frances' family. They have

lost a lovely, caring lady and her talents and kind nature will be missed by us all.

Our Christmas CD is coming along nicely and I would like to thank all those who have taken part, either recording at

home or in Mike's studio. Watch out for more details of our release date —

expected to be mid-November. Also, you will be hearing soon of our

decision on the likely dates for 'Calamity Jane', currently scheduled for

5th—8th May 2021, but, like everything else these days, subject to the latest Covid-19 restrictions.

Behind the scenes, the Committee is meeting monthly and, with the Publicity and Marketing team, is working hard on your behalf.

Talking of Committee members, we are to suffer the loss of two great stalwarts in Chris Worton and Jo Bigg. Chris has obtained a job in the Lake District (in Ambleside) and they will have both moved up North by early next year. As it is taking a long time to collect what they have of ours **and to divide their 'duties' you can appreciate just how much they do for** the society. But, more of them later.

Finally, you may have heard that we are not charging any subscriptions this year, 2020/21, but should members still wish to pay some/whole of their fees, the offer will be appreciated.

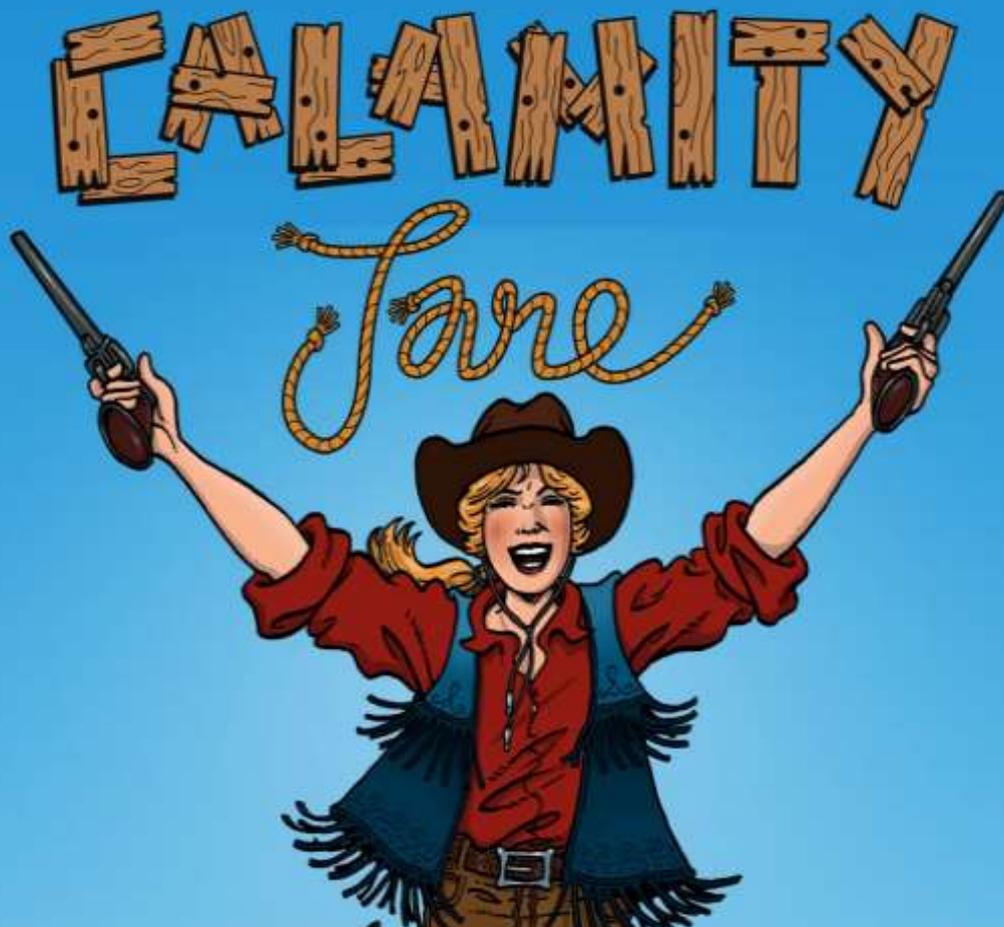
Meanwhile, order your Christmas CD!



General Data Protection Regulation

If you no longer wish to receive the Wolverton G & S Society Newsletter,

please email secretary@wolvertongands.co.uk



DEPENDING UPON COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS AND GUIDELINES

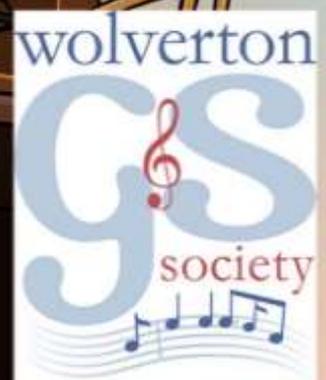
We are performing between

5th—8th May 2021 (for 4 nights only).

At this stage, all you can do is put it in to your diary and plan for a possible January return to rehearsals.

Note: we will make a final decision by 18th December, if not earlier .

Sadly, it is likely there may be some cast changes, but if you have friends who may now be interested then please bring them along when rehearsals start.



YOUR SOCIAL CALENDAR



Here is your latest calendar, but also look at
our Facebook pages for updates:

Friday 23rd October

QUIZ NIGHT

Friday 13th November

Zoom after show party

(Calamity Jane theme)

Mid-November

RELEASE OF THE CHRISTMAS CD

Friday 4th December

CHRISTMAS QUIZ

Thanks to Annie Parker, Karen Elliott, Chris Worton, Jo Bigg, Linda Davy and
Wayne Oakes for organising earlier social nights.



Taken for the 'Men's
chorus photo' for the
'Sorcerer', but featuring
ANNIE PARKER (front
centre), who has
provided us with so much
entertainment during
Quiz and Bingo nights.
THANK YOU, ANNIE.

CHRISTMAS CAROL SINGING

WE ARE STILL TRYING.

As local Parish and Town Councils are themselves restricting their Christmas lights celebrations we are finding it more difficult to organise some festive outside carol singing.

However, as always, we will persevere and let you know should anything come up. Thank you for your patience.



facebook

FACEBOOK IMAGES OF W G & S S PAST PERFORMANCES

For those of you who follow our Facebook pages you will have noticed the images from some of our old shows, some in photo form, others on video. These have been kindly included by our Publicity Officer, Ruth Martin, and have been assisted by Cat Lee and John Bailes.



Frances Byers (above)

A REMINDER ABOUT OUR FACEBOOK

We have two pages on Facebook



THE CLOSED GROUP PAGE

facebook.com/groups/wolvertongands

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



THE PUBLIC PAGE

facebook.com/wolvertongands

This is where we promote our shows and try to get our audience involved with posts about the cast, rehearsals, and other things we're up to. The posts also duplicate on Twitter and Instagram.

It's very helpful if you share these posts on your own wall, ideally with a comment. That spreads the message to a wider audience and your friends will be more interested if you let them know about your involvement in the society.

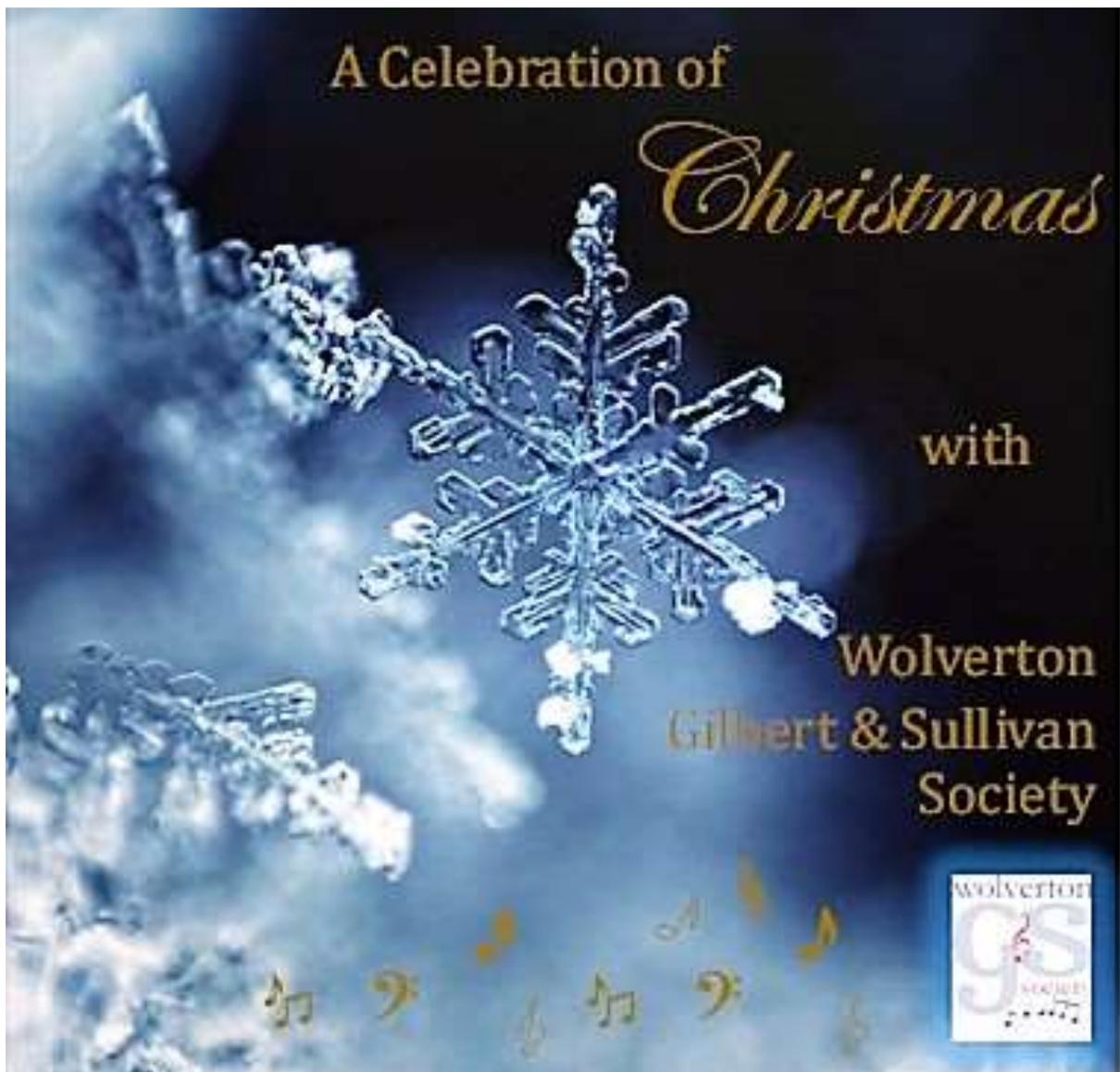
YOU CAN HELP

If you have any ideas for quirky facts and pictures (copyright free!) we can use on Facebook or if you know of other channels we can use to promote the society, then please contact Ruth Martin, who you will find at rehearsals and also on Facebook.

OUR OWN WG&SS CHRISTMAS CD

Our major project recently has been contributing towards a professional, quality audio CD, to be on sale to the public from mid—November with members and friends being able to pre-order it before then.

A big ‘thank you’ to all of those who have so far taken part and an even bigger ‘Thank you’ to Graham Mitchell and Mike Crofts, both of whom have spent enormous amounts of time on our behalf in organising us and in putting the CD songs and carols together.



Artwork by Cat Lee

SUPPORT YOUR SOCIETY AND ORDER COPIES FOR YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS FOR CHRISTMAS.

£

MEMBERSHIP FEES FOR 2020/21

£

As the Society has been inactive for most of the year, there will be NO compulsory membership fee for the period 2020/21 (commencing 1st August 2020 through to 31st July 2021).

To help keep the society funds more secure, should members wish to voluntarily contribute some or whole of their fees to the society there will also be scope for this.

To permit this, Wayne Oakes (our Treasurer), will be updating the **Membership forms whilst the society's website will be amended accordingly.**

YOUR NEXT NEWSLETTER

There will be no November Newsletter. Your next Newsletter will be in December, just in time for Christmas !

