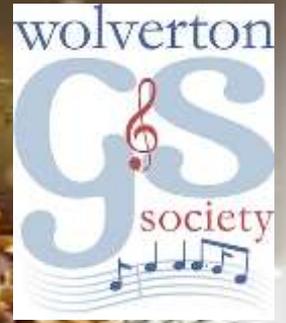


**BUMPER CHRISTMAS EDITION**



**MEMBERS' NEWSLETTER**  
DECEMBER 2020

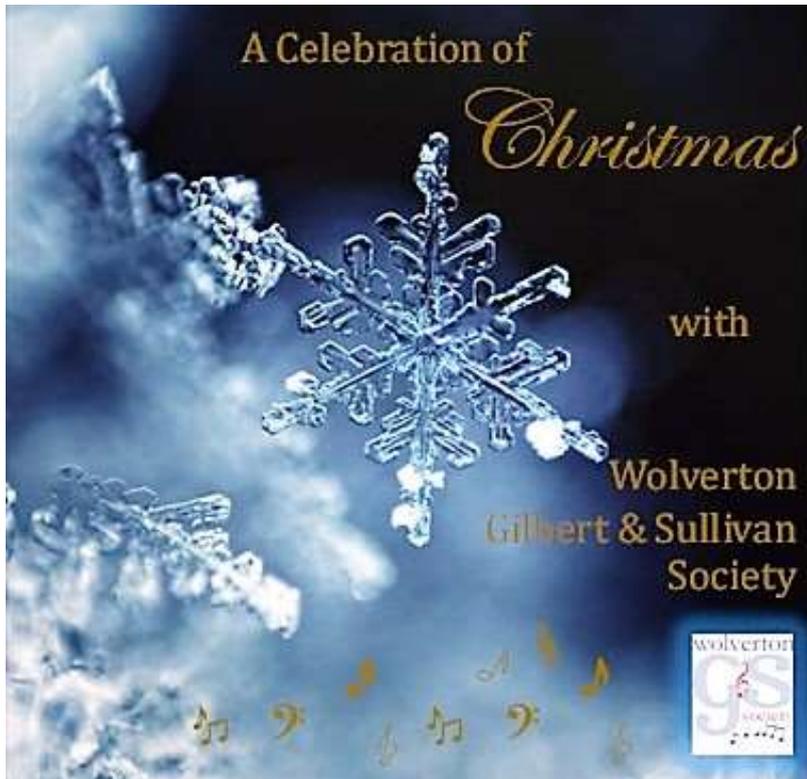
### YOUR CHAIRMAN SPEAKING

What a year! Rehearsals for Calamity were going so well but with just one week to go in March something blew in from China. We postponed the show, we stopped rehearsing and meeting at the Hobbyhorse and even the WLO Christmas concert was cancelled. But not our Christmas spirit. Our Christmas CD is finished and I would like to thank all **those who have taken part, either recording at home or in Mike's studio.**



You will see more details about the CD later. Sadly, since we last met, two of our members have passed away. As reported earlier, Clarence Gill and Frances Byers were both towers of strength and will be much missed. We are also about to lose two invaluable performers and committee members in Chris Worton and Jo Bigg. They will be extremely difficult to replace but we wish them well with their life up north. Committee meetings, thanks to Zoom, have been maintained but planning for 2021 has proved difficult. However, we have kept a social calendar going with online quizzes being the main feature and in that respect I would like to thank Annie Parker for her efforts in entertaining us. I would also like to thank all those who have contributed to this BUMPER edition.

**A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO YOU ALL**



## HOW TO ORDER YOUR CHRISTMAS CD

Go to our website

[wolvertongands.co.uk](http://wolvertongands.co.uk)

The CD image is on the  
Home page

Click on the CD image

You may pay by PayPal or Credit card or Debit card. For those who have sung in the CD, there is a discounted price of £10 using code 'isangonthis'  
After you have purchased your CD, it will be posted to you.

## CHRISTMAS JOKES

How did the bauble know that she was addicted to Christmas?

**She'd been hooked on Christmas trees all her life.**

What do you call a blind reindeer?

No-eye deer.

I have this incredible ability to predict what's inside a wrapped present.

**It's a gift.**

What is Santa's favourite kind of pizza?

**One that's deep-pan, crisp and even.**

Why did no-one bid for Rudolph and Blitzen on eBay?

Because they were two deer.

What do you call people who are afraid of Santa?

Claustrophobic.

I bought my son a fridge for Christmas.

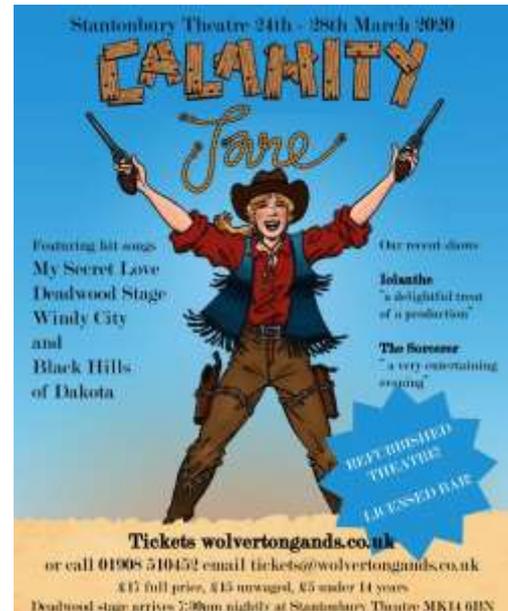
**I can't wait to see his face light up when he opens it.**

Why are Christmas trees so bad at sewing?

**They're always dropping their needles.**

## CALAMITY JANE SCORES

We had hoped to stage the postponed show in November 2020. Then, when restrictions were not lifted, we hoped for May 2021. Alas, we will not be ready in time for May either and so we have decided to postpone Calamity Jane



### Calamity Janes scores and props.

We were planning to open Hobbyhorse, our usual Friday rehearsal venue, on 11<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> December so the Calamity cast could return their borrowed scores and maybe pick up a CD or two at the same time.

We now know we are in Tier2 along with most of the country. The infection rates in MK and Stony are still rising. The risk is still low, but it is a risk. The committee decided this was not worth ruining anyone's Christmas for.

Please hold on to your Calamity Jane scores for now. We will make arrangements for returning them in the New Year.

**PLEASE RUB OUT ANY PENCIL MARKS IN YOUR SCORES. THANK YOU.**

### CHRISTMAS CAROL SINGING

We have decided to cancel all Christmas Carol singing this year, including the Milton Keynes Hospital visit.





## YOUR SOCIAL CALENDAR

Here is the latest calendar, but also look at the Members' Facebook and website for updates:

**ALL STARTING AT 7.30 P.M.**

Friday 4th December

**A THOROUGHLY FESTIVE CHRISTMAS QUIZ**

with Annie Parker

Friday 8th January 2021

**ON-LINE CHARADES with Annie Parker**

Friday 29th January

**AGM and Social evening**



**Quiz master Annie (left)**

Also, thanks to our  
Zoom host, Wayne  
(right)

(taken from Jack the  
Ripper)



## CHRISTMAS JOKES

**What do you call an elf who sings?**

**A Wrapper**

**What do you call an obnoxious reindeer?**

**RUDEolph**

**What did Santa pay for his sleigh?**

**Nothing. It was on the house.**

**What did Adam say on the day before Christmas? It's Christmas, Eve.**

**What's the difference between the Christmas alphabet and the normal one?**

**The Christmas alphabet has NOEL.**

## General Data Protection Regulation

If you no longer wish to receive the Wolverton G & S Society Newsletter,  
please email [secretary@wolvertongands.co.uk](mailto:secretary@wolvertongands.co.uk)

## FROM OUR MUSICAL DIRECTOR AND SOUND ENGINEER

“The WLO Christmas Concert is one highlight of our musical year and we usually assemble a large chorus and enjoy singing a festive programme in front of a sell-out audience. Sadly this year’s concert was unable to go ahead, but we decided to produce a Christmas CD so our audience could still hear us sing.



Mike Crofts

For a recording, we would normally set aside a couple of days to record the songs exactly as we would perform them as a group.

The restrictions prevented us from doing this but we decided to continue with our project by asking everyone to record their part individually, after which we would edit and compile all the recordings into a complete performance. To accommodate members and to take account of personal circumstances we devised ways in which we could capture the voices. Most were recorded in the studio, but a few members used their own resources or took advantage of a mobile multitrack recording setup that was loaned out. After three weeks and many hours of individual contributions, and with a large number of recorded takes, the entire CD programme was ‘in the can’.

The editing process began in the late October and every single recorded voice had to be aligned before balancing and mastering in the post production stage. Our aim was to keep the sound as natural as possible and we decided to aim for a result that ‘sounded like us’ and apply no digital processing other than addressing timing issues and apply an overall reverb at the final mastering stage to bring the voices together. Piano and organ accompaniments – used as the timing reference for all the singers - were recorded by Ros Whatmore, the trumpet descants in ‘*Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*’ and ‘*O Little Town of Bethlehem*’ were recorded in the studio by Michelle Kelsey, and the oboe part for ‘*In The Bleak Midwinter*’ was played by Mary Rolinson.

For the technically-minded, we used Rode NT1 and Neumann TLM195 microphones with double pop filters in the studio, and a Tascam DR-40 for ‘D-I-Y at home’ sessions. For trumpet and flute we used Line Audio CM4 and OM1 microphones. The studio tracks were recorded through a Soundcraft Ui24R interface into Logic Pro X and the mixing and mastering was carried out in Logic Pro and Adobe Audition. Time-alignment was mostly by manual editing but for some short tutti passages we made use of Vocalign Pro, and the final reverb was based on a dialled-back Lexicon PCM ‘medium hall’ setting.”

**The Society is grateful to Mike for his time, professional skill and for being our Sound Engineer in recording the Christmas CD.**

facebook

## W G & S S FACEBOOK

We will continue to post over Christmas. Look out for more exciting news.



In the meantime, thank you to all the contributors in 2020.

## OUR AMAZING W G & S S WEBSITE

For those of you who have not looked at our website—you are missing something. Originally set up and maintained over many hours of hard work by Chris Worton, it has been updated through the efforts of both Chris and Graham Mitchell. You will enjoy browsing its pages and photographs.



Website: [wolvertongands.co.uk](http://wolvertongands.co.uk)

To find the calendar for shows and rehearsals:

[www.wolvertongands.co.uk](http://www.wolvertongands.co.uk)

Members only

Calendar



## **RUTH MARTIN'S CHRISTMAS QUIZZES**

**Ruth has kindly given us two quizzes.**

### **QUIZ NO. 1**

- 1) What is the name of the cake traditionally eaten in Italy at Christmas?
- 2) Which Paul McCartney hit song's video featured the First World War Christmas truce meeting of German and British soldiers in no-man's land?
- 3) Due to an Act of Parliament Christmas was effectively banned in England for 16 long years. This included all festivities, even the attendance of Mass or a church service. Plus or minus 25 years, when did this Scrooge or Grinch like catastrophe take place?
- 4) In what year did Band Aid release their record "Do They Know It's Christmas?"?
- 5) Plus or minus 2 years, when did the 'Etch-A-Sketch' first appear under the Christmas tree?
- 6) What are the names of the Three Wise Men or The Three Kings (in western folklore)?
- 7) Who is officially credited as the author of Auld Lang Syne?
- 8) The tune for "Hark the Herald Angels Sing" is adapted from a piece by which classical composer?
- 9) What Christmas item was invented by London baker and wedding-cake specialist Tom Smith in 1847?
- 10) White Christmas was first performed in which 1942 film?
- 11) From which country does the poinsettia plant originate?
- 12) Who had a hit with 'Driving home for Christmas' in 1988?
- 13) What British spacecraft, partly built by the Open University, was lost on Mars at Christmas 2003?
- 14) 'And all the bells on earth shall ring, on Christmas Day in the morning ...' is from which Christmas carol?
- 15) In which country does Santa have his own personal postcode HO HO HO?



**Answers on page 10**

## RUTH MARTIN'S CHRISTMAS QUIZZES

### QUIZ NO. 2

Guess the titles of these Christmas carols and songs

1. DTH
2. OCAYF
3. AWGMOO
4. ITBMW
5. OLTOB
6. MBC
7. WTKOOA
8. TTDOC
9. HYAMLC
10. SCICTT
11. AIWFCIY
12. FTONY



Answers on page 10

### CHRISTMAS JOKES

The only Christmas present that I got this year was a deck of sticky playing cards.

I find that very hard to deal with.

How did Mary and Joseph know that Jesus was 8lb 2oz when he was born?  
They had a weigh in a manger.

I got a universal remote control for Christmas.

This changes everything.

What do you get if you eat Christmas decorations?  
Tinsilitis.

How did Scrooge win the football game?

The Ghost of Christmas passed.

Did you hear about the man who stole an advent calendar?  
He got 25 days.

**WELL. WHAT DID YOU EXPECT?**

**DES O'CONNOR ?**



## A CHRISTMAS RECIPE

ALISON BAILES'

### FRANGIPANE MINCE PIES

#### INGREDIENTS.

##### Pastry:

200g plain flour  
85g cold butter  
50g icing sugar,  
1 egg.

##### Filling:

85g softened butter  
85g ground almonds  
2 eggs  
flaked almonds  
85g caster sugar  
35g plain flour  
1/2 tsp vanilla essence  
300g (approx.) mincemeat



#### METHOD.

1. Put the flour, icing sugar and butter in a food processor and blitz to fine breadcrumbs. Add egg and blitz until a dough is formed.
  2. Knead lightly and roll out on a floured surface. Using a pastry cutter (about 9cm diameter), cut out circles and use to line a deep muffin tin. Put in the fridge while you make the filling.
  3. Cream together the butter and sugar, beat in the eggs one at a time.
  4. Fold in the ground almonds, flour and vanilla extract.
  5. Put a heaped teaspoon of mincemeat in each pastry case and top with a heaped teaspoon of the frangipane mixture. Sprinkle each one with flaked almonds.
  6. Bake at 180 degrees for 15 –20 minutes until the frangipane mixture has risen and springs back when pressed.
  5. Cool on a wire rack and dust with icing sugar.
- .....

**CHRISTMAS QUIZ ANSWERS**  
**QUIZ No. 1**

- 1) Panettone
- 2) Pipes of Peace
- 3) 1644
- 4) 1984
- 5) 1960
- 6) Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar
- 7) Robert Burns
- 8) Mendelssohn
- 9) Christmas cracker
- 10 Holiday Inn
- 11) Mexico
- 12) Chris Rea
- 13) Beagle
- 14) I saw three ships
- 15) Canada

**QUIZ No. 2**

1. Deck The Halls
2. O Come All Ye Faithful
3. As With Gladness Men Of Old
4. In The Bleak Mid Winter
5. O Little Town Of Bethehem
6. Mary's Boy Child
7. We Three Kings Of Orient Are
8. The Twelve Days Of Christmas
9. Have Yourself A Merry Little Christmas
10. Santa Claus Is Coming To Town
- .11. All I Want For Christmas Is You
12. Fairy Tale Of New York

**Did you know? Penguins in Antarctica do not have to social distance.**



## 'SHOW TIME' IN 2021

As far as we are able to plan, here is your  
2021 Show and Rehearsal calendar.

(also, see the website calendar pages)

### 1. **Summer show. 'The story of Mr Gilbert and Mr Sullivan'**

1st—3rd July 2021

Rehearsals from 07.05.21 — 25.06.21 at Hobbyhorse

Also, Wednesdays at Christ Church 02.06.21—23.06.21

**Auditions Friday 30th April 2021 at Hobbyhorse**

Musical Director—Mike Crofts Director— Graham Mitchell.

It will be in a smaller, cheaper venue and we will costume it ourselves.

### 2. **Winter Show — 'Pirates of Penzance'**

9th —13th November 2021

Rehearsals from 03.09.21 — 05.11.21 at Hobbyhorse

Also, Wednesdays at Christ Church 08.09.21—03.11.21

**Auditions on Friday 9th July at Hobbyhorse**

We are holding auditions early so we can start rehearsals with principals already. Producer Annie Parker

### 3. **Wolverton Light Orchestra Christmas Concert**

Sunday 12th December 2021

Rehearsals from 19.11.21 — 10.12.21 at Hobbyhorse

Also, Wednesdays at Christ Church 01.12.21—08.12.21

### 4. **Christmas get together, mince pies and rehearsal**

Friday 17th December 2021 at Hobbyhorse.



## **YOUR AGM (online)**

**Friday 19th January 2021 at 7.30 p.m.**

**(followed by a social online gathering)**

**Look out for further news from Karen Platt (our ever reliable Secretary)**



### **NEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

**Whilst the departure of Chris Worton and Jo Bigg is a great loss to us, we are pleased to welcome Nick Jones and Linda Davy to our Committee.**

**THANK YOU, NICK AND LINDA, AND WELCOME**



### **HAPPY NEW YEAR**

**Many of us will be relieved that 2020 is over.**

**So, here's wishing you all a happy 2021 and may you stay healthy and wise.**

