

# MEMBERS' NEWSLETTER

## FEBRUARY 2021



### THANK YOU

To the 25 people and couples above who attended our AGM on 29th January.  
It was nice to see you all. More details of the AGM are to follow.

### 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)

## CHRIS WORTON AND JO BIGG

**As you will probably know Chris and Jo have left the Society to embark upon a new life in the Lake District.**

**It was decided to award them Life Membership at the AGM and here are the Chairman's words of appreciation for all that they have done for us.**

(You will find a full copy of this in Graham's report from the AGM)



**Jo (left) with Lynn Homer**

“ Jo's first show with us was when she sang the part of Edith in our 2011 production of The Pirates of Penzance. This was followed by Kate in Yeomen and Saphir in Patience. In fact, Jo has performed in 8 of our last 9 major shows and all the in-betweens too.

She is, of course, a wonderful dancer and that meant she was quickly co-opted as a dance captain coaching us all in the marvellous, and to some mysterious art, of moving purposefully to music. As an example of her dedication to helping the society, Jo often travels long distances to rehearsals to help out with the dancing, even on evenings when she isn't called for her principal role.

Jo is a long serving and active committee member too. She has been enormously helpful with show research and selection and, as music librarian, has always been able to produce libs and scores as if by magic. She has managed our show licences and, together with Chris catalogued and stored our huge collection of printed music.

Jo has also been our membership secretary for many years. Those who joined the society were assured of a proper welcome and Jo is also the person responsible for looking after our membership records securely and making sure you get emails about important events. Jo leaves us with a hard act to follow and we have been lucky to have her as a member of our society. “ (Graham Mitchell)



In

**Chris (right) with Liz Carter**

“Chris joined us way back in 1996 and quickly became a very welcome asset. Not just was he a man, and aren't we always short of men? He was tenor too and devilishly good looking to boot. So basically, something of a coup.

In 1996, Chris' first show was Ruddygore where he was cast as Sir Gilbert Murgatroyd in a rather uncomfortable-looking suit of armour. His second show produced an all too rare solo as 1<sup>st</sup> Yeoman in The Yeomen of the Guard in 1997, a role he reprised in the 2003 production.

His Pish-Tush in knickerbockers was delightedly received in The Mikado in 2007 and he made yet another splendid appearance in uniform as one of the First Life Guards in our 2010 production of Utopia. Those legs came out again when the Dragoons Rugby team performed the Haka in Patience 6 years ago. In fact, Chris has been all of our shows since 1996. That's an uninterrupted run of 26 appearances. We shall long remember his lederhosen clad tourist in The Zoo and being in our first gay marriage in The Grand Duke. Of course, it is not only Chris' contributions on stage we shall miss. He was a committee member for years and secretary of the Society as well as fulfilling the highly dangerous role of vice-chair. Wolverton G&S acquired its internet domain in 2005 and Chris was the one who undertook the colossal task of building our website. It grew under his management to a huge resource with nearly 120 pages of information including the archive which dates back to our first show in 1975. Chris is an excellent communicator. This shows nowhere better than in his chorus coaching sessions where his clever mnemonics get the men's chorus word perfect in record time. Not just the words, either. Chris has been a dance captain for years, using his skill at communicating to get us moving together with purpose and in time with the music. He leaves no one behind. As I know from personal experience, Chris paces his sessions to the slowest learner and doesn't move on until we are all confident. In short, Wolverton Gilbert and Sullivan Society have been truly fortunate to have him as a member.” (Graham Mitchell)

## 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 19th February**

**VALENTINE'S QUIZ**

**With Linda Davy and Annie Parker**

**On Zoom hosted by Karen Platt**



**Friday 12th March BINGO**

**With Annie Parker**

**On Zoom hosted by Wayne Oakes**

**Watch out for your invites!**

## CHRISTMAS CD

**Thank you to those who bought one.**

**We still have a few left and these will go on sale at future events and in time for next Christmas.**



## Calamity Jane scores and props.

**We have still to set a date for the collection of the scores.**

**IN THE MEANTIME, PLEASE RUB OUT ANY PENCIL MARKS IN YOUR SCORES.**

**THANK YOU.**

## 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.**



facebook

## W G & S S FACEBOOK

See what other members are doing, on Facebook.

We have two pages, one for members and one for the public.

You will also receive more notifications once rehearsals commence.



## HOW ELSE CAN I FIND OUT WHAT IS GOING ON AT W G & S S?

You can look at our calendar.

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

Click on **Members only**

Click on **Calendar**

Find the date you are looking for and you will see the activity for the day.

If you click on the day, you will also see who placed the entry.

## YOUR COMMITTEE MEMBERS 2021/2



**Angela Bowen**  
**President**



**Graham Mitchell**  
**Chairman**



**Wayne Oakes**  
**Treasurer**



**Karen Platt**  
**Secretary**



**Nick Jones**



**Linda Davy**



**John Bailes**



**Karen Elliott**



<< **Annie Parker**

## PUBLICITY AND MARKETING TEAM 2021/2

(below, plus Graham Mitchell and John Bailes)



**Ruth Martin**



**Louise Thonger**



**Cat' Lee**

## '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.