

**MEMBERS' NEWSLETTER**  
JUNE 2022



BERT (HERBERT) COLEMAN

It is with great sadness that we let you know of the passing of Bert Coleman at the grand age of 94 years. He was a founder member of Wolverton G&S and our Treasurer for many years.

I am sure a lot of us have fond memories of him.

**Bert's funeral is at 2.45 p.m. on Tuesday 28th June at the Oak Chapel, Crownhill**

From his daughter-in-law, Kate — **“He loved and cared for Wolverton and has lived there for most of his life.”**

From Wayne Oakes, our current Treasurer — **“Such sad news. A wonderful character and true gentleman who will be greatly missed. RIP Bert.”**

From Karen Platt, our Secretary - **“RIP to a dear old gentleman.”**

And From Angela Bowen, our President - **“I have very fond memories of Bert especially in the early days of Wolverton G and S. When I joined I lived in Newport Pagnell and couldn't drive so travelled by bus to rehearsals. However Bert was very kind and sometimes gave me a lift home. Once when he dropped me off, he switched the car engine off and then he tried to restart and oh dear it wouldn't start! He then came in for a coffee and rang the AA. After waiting an hour, they arrived and the car started straight away. Poor Bert felt awful but smiled and drove home. He always had a lovely sense of humour and was a loyal member of the G and S. He will be sadly missed. RIP. Bert. x “**

For more about Bert see Page 2.

## **Bert (Herbert) Coleman's introduction to the Wolverton Gilbert and Sullivan Society in 1974 (and part of your history)**

In 1974, if you had to journey from, say, Bletchley to Wolverton, you would have to drive, cycle or walk down country lanes and roads through Loughton and Old Bradwell. Bletchley (with Fenny Stratford), Newport Pagnell, Stony Stratford and, of course, Wolverton were the main commercial and residential areas. The Wolverton (Rail) Works was the largest employer in the Milton Keynes area and the land lying between these old towns was mainly farmland and not as you see it today.

In 1974, Arnold Jones (an employee of the Wolverton Works) was already the musical director and conductor of the Wolverton Light Orchestra. Along with Fred Cornford (a work colleague), Bert Coleman (a Wolverton resident and an employee from McCorquodale, a Wolverton-based printing company established in 1868) and Clarence Gill (a Wolverton resident) they set up the society with Fred as Chairman. Clarence then invited a young singer, Angela Bowen, to join the society. Angela is again our President today, just as she was from 2010-15, with Clarence holding the post between times.

The society was then called the Wolverton (and District) Gilbert and Sullivan Society and its first ever production was 'HMS Pinafore' in May 1975.

Amongst performing, Bert was our Treasurer for many years, devoting much of his time to the society and local music. It is thanks to people like Bert that we continue to enjoy G and S to this day.

### 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)**

## **REMAINING REHEARSAL DATES FOR “WE HAVE A SONG TO SONG, O!”**

**(Performances on 1st and 2nd July)**

### **1. Hobbyhorse, Stony Stratford**

**Fridays 17th and 24th June**

**7.00 p.m. for 7.30 p.m.**

### **2. Christ Church, Stantonbury**

**Wednesdays 15th and 22nd**

**7.30 p.m.**

### **3. West End Church, Wolverton— in addition to performances**

**Wednesday 29th June**

**7.30 p.m.**

**Thursday 30th June**

**7.30 p.m.**

**REHEARSALS FOR THE NOVEMBER SHOW START ON FRIDAY 19TH AUGUST  
AT THE HOBBYHORSE CHILDREN’S CENTRE, STONY STRATFORD**

## **FUTURE EVENTS**

**November 11th and 12th 2022 — We have an exciting plan for a Concert  
at the Stantonbury Theatre**

**Sunday 11th December 2022 — A Christmas Concert is being considered  
by the Wolverton Light Orchestra and, if it  
goes ahead, we have been invited**

**2023**

**Week ending 13th May 2023 — full scale production of HMS PINAFORE  
at the Stantonbury Theatre**

**Week ending 11th November 2023 —a concert-style performance  
at the Stantonbury Theatre**

**A possible Christmas Concert in December 2023 with the Wolverton Light  
Orchestra (but to be advised)**

West End United Church 1st-2nd July 2022

# We have a Song to Sing O

**A Confection  
of  
Gilbert  
and  
Sullivan  
Favourites!**

Our recent shows

**Iolanthe**

“a delightful treat  
of a production”

**The Sorcerer**

“a very entertaining  
evening”

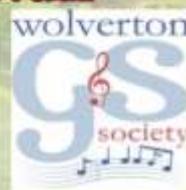
**Buy tickets online at [wolvertongands.co.uk](http://wolvertongands.co.uk)**

or call 01908 510452 email [tickets@wolvertongands.co.uk](mailto:tickets@wolvertongands.co.uk)

£12 full price, £10 unwaged, £5 under 14 years

7:30pm each evening. Raffle and refreshments too!

FREE  
PARKING  
NEARBY AT  
WYVERN  
SCHOOL!



NOT LONG TO GO BEFORE THE SHOW

A small venue perhaps, but we would like to perform to a full audience. Tell all your friends and family!

SORRY, THERE IS NO FREE PARKING AT WYVERN ANY MORE.

Look out for more exciting FACEBOOK news

We have TWO Facebook pages—one public, one  
for members.



Members can help by:

1. Going to [facebook.com/wolvertongands](https://facebook.com/wolvertongands)
2. Clicking the 'like' button so you are notified when the publicity team post something
3. Click the 'share' button under the latest post and choosing 'share to feed' or 'share to story', to help spread the message
4. **Writing an encouraging comment. “Looking forward to it”, “I'm in this”, “Let me know if you want tickets.” etc. etc.**

## OUR AMAZING WEBSITE

**For those of you who have not looked —you are missing something.**

**It is now updated by your Chairman, Graham Mitchell and you will enjoy  
browsing its pages and photographs.**



**To find the show/rehearsal calendar**

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

**Click on [Members only](#)**

**Go to [Calendar](#)**

**Click on the date you want to check**



## RAFFLE PRIZES STILL NEEDED

A friendly reminder that we still need raffle prizes, please. We have plenty of bottles so boxes of biscuits or chocolates. All contributions to go to Karen Elliott.

Proceeds will go to the  
Disaster Emergency Committee  
(Ukraine).



## DRESS CODE FOR THE CONCERT



Costume is : posh frocks for those who like wearing posh frocks, and black or dark coloured trousers and bright tops for the rest.

It is summer! You can be as colourful and flamboyant as you wish. You may also add appropriate accessories for your principal parts.

## *Membership fees information*

*If you were a member of the society in 2019/20 you still are, whether or not you have paid subs. **Subs are not actually due until August 2022**, but I am very grateful to so many of you who have carried on paying full or part subs. Please consider continuing to do so.*

**Graham Mitchell—Chairman**



**BBQ**  
**Friday 8th July**  
**Hobbyhorse Children's Centre**  
**Stony Stratford**  
**7.30 p.m.—9.30 p.m.**

**Please see the list of food required if you are coming.**

**All cutlery, plates, bowls and cups will be provided. Please contact Karen Platt to offer food or monetary contribution (07885 635 400) or [Secretary@wolvertongands.co.uk](mailto:Secretary@wolvertongands.co.uk) or Wednesday or Friday at rehearsal).**

**Please label your dish so it comes back to you.**

**Annie will be our quizmaster for the night.**

**Bring your own drinks and chairs, please.**



**COME AND ENJOY YOURSELF  
DURING OUR SUMMER BREAK**

**Wolverton Rail Works - long ago!!**

