

Halifax Gilbert and Sullivan Society Newsletter

July 2020

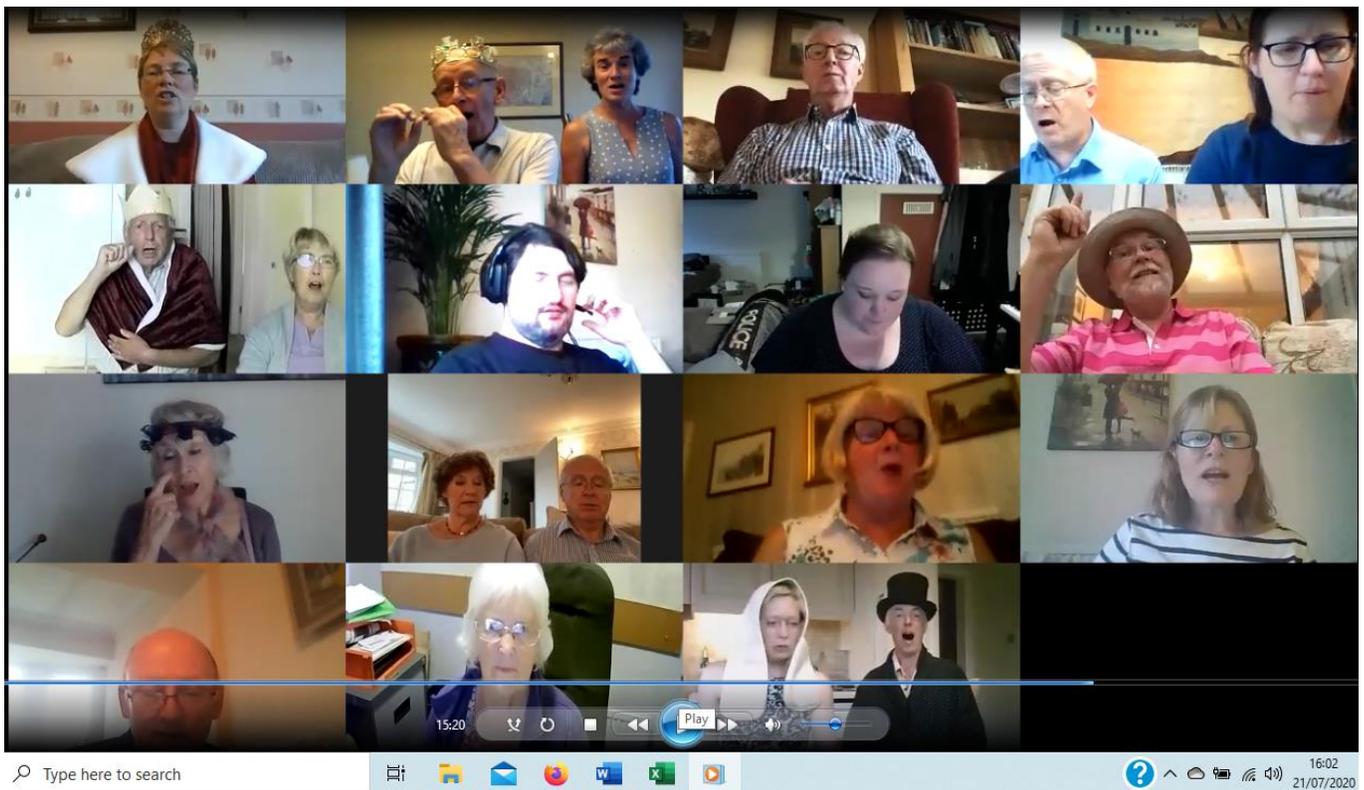
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The Virtual Society



The Society has been meeting since the beginning of June for “virtual rehearsals” on a Friday night. G & S Karaoke would be a closer description, but it has been a way of getting together to see each other and have a chat, as well as letting off some vocal steam. This has to be done individually, unheard by the rest of the party, owing to the various time lapses in transmission of the accompaniment. When the meeting host forgot to mute everybody on one occasion, the resulting cacophony would have seriously rivalled Luiz’s imitation of a farmyard.

As the weeks have gone by, people have realised the possibilities for improvising costumes and props, and the exercise has demonstrated that performing in isolation is no bar to shameless coarse acting. The above picture shows part of the Peers’ chorus from *Iolanthe*, though it does look as though Despard and Mad Margaret might have wandered into the bottom row.

We’ve been pleased to see some old friends popping in to see what’s up. Wendy Sanders, who last appeared on the Playhouse stage in 1982, came along to our second meeting. We were surprised and delighted to see Mitchell Wolfe three weeks ago. Mitch came to us in 1987 as Samuel, and his last appearance was as Ko-Ko in

1995 and subsequently at Nunnington Hall the following spring, where he was upstaged by a peacock on the roof during his delivery of *Tit Willow*.



Mitch in 1995



Mitch three weeks ago



The peacock

We've also on a couple of occasions been joined before breakfast by John and Barbara Thompson beaming in from New Zealand. They're out of lockdown now and preparing for all their musical activities. John told us that he was performing *Foeman* later this month, conducted by Barbara.

We have two more singalongs in July, and then on Friday 7 August we're hoping to have a virtual Pot-Pourri evening. How it will work is anyone's guess, though some might say that was the case with our normal pot-pourri evenings anyway. Andrew Stopford is coordinating things, so if you want to offer something please get in touch with him (andrew_stopford2003@yahoo.co.uk).



Photos and programmes

We've been busy adding material to the *Show Archive* page of the Society website. You can now see programmes for all our staged shows from 1971, and we're steadily adding photographs. We've got from 1971 to 1997 on the site, as well as the most recent shows, and should have the intervening period filled before long. You will however notice some gaps, or years for which there are very few entries. For some shows we have little or nothing from the actual performance, so have had to make do with rehearsal, backstage or publicity photos, or fuzzy stills from the video. If you have any that might fill those gaps (or better prints of the ones that we have), we'd be really grateful for a scanned copy. You can send it to Kathryn (address and email at the top of this Newsletter).

David Eaves

We were sorry to learn that David Eaves had died in March. David was in our *Pirates* in 2007. Although other musical commitments prevented his further participation, he continued to support us for a number of years. He told us in 2012 that he was to undergo some serious surgery, which was successful at the time, but unfortunately the problem reappeared in late 2019.

We remember David's fine singing voice and dry wit with pleasure, and our sympathy goes to his partner and family.



Keep safe. Hope to see you on a Friday

