

A HALIFAX GILBERT & SULLIVAN SOCIETY PRODUCTION

THE SORCERER

By W S Gilbert and
Arthur Sullivan

Wednesday to Saturday
6 – 9 November 2019

Programme
£1.00

www.halifaxgands.org.uk
Regd Charity 1177572



From the chairman

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to our 2019 production of 'The Sorcerer'. Just sit back and enter the fantasy world of magic and potions presided over by the Sorcerer himself, where all life's problems are resolved in the notion of 'true love' and eventual happiness.

We are delighted to have Richard Buxton as our musical director and Philip Sutcliffe as producer. Philip returns after a short break.

We welcome Rowena Thornton, playing the part of Aline. Rowena is well known to West Yorkshire audiences having performed many Gilbert and Sullivan roles in recent years. May I also say it is lovely to have Sue Bythell with us once again.

Our thanks go to you, our audience. Without you there would be no show.

If you are new to us, you may wish to consider joining the society as a performing or backstage member. We rehearse on Fridays at All Saints' Hall, Skircoat Green, Halifax. You can find out more by contacting our secretary, Kathryn Buxton on 01484 301291.

Have a magical evening!

Stephanie Bolton



HALIFAX GILBERT AND SULLIVAN SOCIETY

Andrew Stopford (President), Stephanie Bolton (Chairman), Stuart Summerscales (Vice-Chairman), Kathryn Buxton (Secretary), Fintan O'Shea (Treasurer)

Richard Buxton, Steven Greenwood, Deborah Hammond, Peter Skelton (Committee members)



Page sponsored by Stephanie Bolton and Deirdre O'Shea

The Society

Halifax Gilbert and Sullivan Society was originally formed in 1968, and gave its first public full-dress performance three years later at Halifax Playhouse. The annual production in the late autumn, still at the Playhouse, remains the Society's major public appearance, but we also offer a season of public concerts in the spring, usually between March and June. We are always pleased to perform at new venues in and around Halifax or further afield, and anyone wishing to organise a concert should contact the Secretary (see below).



Kathryn Buxton
Society Secretary

The Society meets to rehearse on Friday evenings throughout the year at All Saints Church Hall, Skirecoat Green, Halifax.

Three or four of these Friday evenings during the year are given over to informal concerts and Club Nights, where we will sing through a complete Gilbert and Sullivan opera, or perhaps another piece from the same period, with the audience providing the chorus. Members of the public are always welcome to join us (and sing with us, although that's not compulsory!) on these occasions.

If you would like to sing with or support the Society yourself, you are very welcome to turn up at the rehearsal room on a Friday evening (7.45 onwards). Alternatively you may contact the Secretary, Kathryn Buxton, 34 Fir Road, Huddersfield, HD1 4JE (01484-301291). If you don't sing yourself, but can perhaps offer organisational or other practical skills, you will be equally welcome. We look forward to seeing you in the future!

Check what's happening on our website - www.halifaxgands.org.uk
You can also find our Facebook page

Ian Moorhouse sings Songs from the shows

at All Saints Church Hall, Godfrey Road, Skirecoat Green
on Friday 15 November at 7.30 pm

Admission by ticket only, in advance. Includes pie and pea supper
Ticket hotline 01422 381931

Page sponsored by Kelvyn and Pam Waites

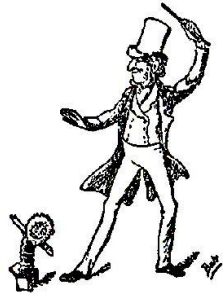
The story so far

Ploverleigh is a sleepy little village, whose way of life has been governed for centuries by the triangle of the Church and the two noble families of Sangazure and Pointdextre.

The Church is currently represented by the Reverend Doctor Daly, an old bachelor who nevertheless still retains a glint in his eye at the approach of a comely young (or old) lady. One of his assistants at the Church is Mrs Zorah Partlet, pew-opener, whose daughter Constance is hopelessly in love with the Vicar.

Lady Annabella Sangazure is the present head of her house, where also lives her daughter, the Lovely Aline. In the other manor-house, Sir Marmaduke Pointdextre resides with his son, the Brave Alexis.

As the curtain rises, the village is excitedly preparing for a blue-blooded betrothal, that of Aline and Alexis, which will unite these two noble families.



Alexis has thoughts, however, not just for themselves. Why cannot everybody share what he imagines to be their supreme joy? Why should not the whole village likewise steep itself up to its lips in love? To this end, and with purely altruistic motives, he has engaged the services of Mr John Wellington Wells, a Family Sorcerer from the City, who has perfected a love potion which causes all who drink it to

fall asleep and then in love with the first person of the opposite sex that they meet on waking.

The three conspirators contrive to introduce the love potion into the large communal teapot at the engagement party which closes the First Act. During the Second Act we find out whether things have developed to plan.

- Will Constance get her Vicar?
- Will Sir Marmaduke get Lady Sangazure?
- Will Alexis get his wish?
- And will Mr Wells get away?

All will be revealed ...



*John Tattersall
(John Wellington Wells)*

Have a happy and successful show, from Andrew and Shirley Mitchell

Characters in the story

Sir Marmaduke Pointdextre (an Elderly Baronet) ...	Stuart Summerscales
Alexis (of the Grenadier Guards, his Son)	Leon Waksberg
Dr Daly (Vicar of Ploverleigh)	Peter Skelton
A Notary	Trevor Roberts
John Wellington Wells (a Sorcerer)	John Tattersall
Lady Sangazure (A Lady of Ancient Lineage) ...	Penny McGovern
Aline (her Daughter, betrothed to Alexis)	Rowena Thornton
Mrs Partlet (a Pew Opener)	Patricia Brennan
Constance (her Daughter)	Anna Trent

Housemaids and Villagers of Ploverleigh

Stephanie Bolton	Deirdre O'Shea
Kathryn Buxton	Eoin O'Shea
Sue Bythell	Fintan O'Shea
Carole Engel	David Prosser
Harold Galley	Rachel Prosser
Steven Greenwood	Christine Roberts
Deborah Hammond	Peter Sugden
John Morgan	Kelvyn Waites
	Tim Widdop



This page sponsored by David Glover and Sheila Spencer

Musical numbers

Act One

- Ring forth, ye bells (Chorus)
- Constance, my daughter ... When he is here (*Mrs Partlet, Constance*)
- The air is charged ... Time was, when love and I were well acquainted (*Dr Daly*)
- With heart and with voice ... My kindly friends ... Oh, happy young heart! (*Ladies' Chorus, Aline*)
- My child ... With heart and with voice (*Lady Sangazure, Men's Chorus*)
- Welcome, joy! adieu to sadness (*Sir Marmaduke, Lady Sangazure*)
- All is prepared for sealing and for signing ... With heart and with voice (*Notary, Alexis, Aline, Chorus*)
- For love alone (*Alexis*)
- My name is John Wellington Wells (*Mr Wells*)
- Incantation (*Mr Wells, Alexis, Aline, Chorus*)
- Finale to Act One : Now to the banquet we press ... Oh love, true love ... Oh marvellous illusion



Penny McGoverin (*Lady Sangazure*) and Rowena Thornton (*Aline*)



Stuart Summerscales (*Sir Marmaduke*) and Leon Waksberg (*Alexis*)



Peter Skelton (*Dr Daly*)



Stephanie Bolton, Kathryn Buxton, Rowena Thornton, Deirdre O'Shea, Rachel Prosser

Page sponsored by Penny McGoverin, in recognition of musical memories of the Murchie and Woods families

Act Two

- 'Tis twelve, I think ... Why, where he oi ... If you'll marry me (*Aline, Alexis, Mr Wells, Chorus*)
- Dear friends, take pity on my lot ... Oh joy, oh joy! The charm works well ... Oh, bitter joy! (*Constance, Notary, Alexis, Aline, Chorus*)
- It is not love (*Alexis*)
- I rejoice that it's decided (*Aline, Mrs Partlet, Alexis, Dr Daly, Sir Marmaduke*)
- Oh, I have wrought much evil with my spells (*Mr Wells, Lady Sangazure*)
- Alexis! Doubt me not, my loved one! ... The fearful deed is done (*Aline*)
- Oh, my voice is sad and low (*Dr Daly*)
- Oh, joyous boon, oh, mad delight ... Alas, that lovers thus should meet ... False one, begone! ... Oh what is the matter ... Prepare for sad surprises (*Aline, Dr Daly, Alexis, Chorus*)
- Finale to Act Two : Or I or he must die ... Now to the banquet we press



Trevor Roberts (*Notary*) and John Morgan



(l to r) Peter Sugden, Steven Greenwood, Fintan O'Shea, Tim Widdop



Anna Trent (*Constance*) and Christine Roberts



Carole Engel, Deborah Hammond and Sue Bythell



Patricia Brennan (*Mrs Partlet*)

Page sponsored by Stuart Summerscales
Remembering musical friends and family – now unseen but ever near

Production team

STAGE DIRECTOR Philip Sutcliffe
MUSICAL DIRECTOR Richard Buxton
REHEARSAL PIANISTS Philip Sutcliffe, Keira Watson

Members of the WEST YORKSHIRE ORCHESTRA,
SQUARE CHAPEL ORCHESTRA and FRIENDS

STAGE MANAGER Paul Matthews
LIGHTING DESIGNED BY Karl Eaton
COSTUMES Wakefield G & S, Ian Stead
PROPERTIES Deborah Hammond
ORCHESTRAL PARTS James Newby Music
TICKET SALES Stephanie Bolton
FRONT OF HOUSE MANAGER Andrew Stopford
PUBLICITY Stephanie Bolton, Peter Sugden
FOYER DISPLAY Stephanie Bolton
PROGRAMME Richard Buxton

Many thanks to Bobbie Greatorex for assistance with costumes



From Kate, Rebecca and Sophie in memory of their grandmother Noreen Galley
"We would love to have seen you either on stage or in the orchestra"

An Elixir of Love

Gilbert contributed an earlier version of the plot of *The Sorcerer* to the Christmas number of the *Graphic* in 1876. Here the protagonist is the Vicar of Ploverleigh, the Reverend Stanley Gay, blissfully engaged to Jessie Lightly. They decide between them to make the whole village as happy as themselves, and set off for London.

In St. Martin's Lane lived Baylis and Culpepper, magicians, astrologers, and professors of the Black Art. Baylis had sold himself to the Devil at a very early age, and had become remarkably proficient in all kinds of enchantment. Culpepper had been his apprentice, and having also acquired considerable skill as a necromancer, was taken into partnership by the genial old magician, who from the first had taken a liking to the frank and fair-haired boy. The firm of Baylis and Culpepper stood at the very head of the London family magicians. They did what is known as a pushing trade, but although they advertised largely, and never neglected a chance, it was admitted even by their rivals, that the goods they supplied could be relied on as sound useful articles.

Stanley Gay and Jessie come across Baylis and Culpepper's advertisement in the *Connubial Chronicle*.

"My dear Jessie," said Gay, "These Love Philtres that Baylis and Culpepper advertise—they are very cheap indeed, and if we may judge by the testimonials, they are very effective. Listen, darling." And Stanley Gay read as follows:—

"From the Earl of Market Harborough. 'I am a hideous old man of eighty, and everyone avoided me. I took a family bottle of your philtre, immediately on my accession to the title and estates a fortnight ago, and I can't keep the young women off. Please send me a pipe of it to lay down.'"

"From Amelia Orange Blossom.—'I am a very pretty girl of fifteen. For upwards of fourteen years past I have been without a definitely declared admirer. I took a large bottle of your philtre yesterday, and within fourteen hours a young nobleman winked at me in church. Send me a couple of dozen.'"

"What can the girl want with a couple of dozen young noblemen, darling?" asked Jessie. "I don't know—perhaps she took it too strong. Now these men," said Gay, laying down the paper, "are benefactors indeed, if they can accomplish all they undertake. I would ennoble these men".

A nine-gallon cask is duly dispatched to Ploverleigh, and it was finally determined that there was only one way in which the philtre could be safely and properly distributed. Mr. Gay was to give out that he was much interested in the sale of a very peculiar and curious old Amontillado, and small sample bottles of the wine were to be circulated among such of his parishioners as were decently eligible as brides and

Magical History Stories wish *The Sorcerer* well with his supernatural powers
magicalhistorystories.com

bridegrooms. The scheme was put into operation as soon as it was decided upon. Mr. Gay sent to the nearest market-town for a gross of two-ounce phials, and Jessie and he spent a long afternoon bottling the elixir into these convenient receptacles. They then rolled them up in papers, and addressed them to the persons who were destined to be operated upon. And when all this was done Jessie returned to her papa, and Mr. Gay sat up all night explaining in pantomime to Zorah (his elderly and very deaf housemaid) that a widowed aunt of his, in somewhat straitened circumstances, who resided in a small but picturesque villa in the suburbs of Montilla, had been compelled to take a large quantity of the very finest sherry from a bankrupt wine-merchant, in satisfaction of a year's rent of her second floor, and that he had undertaken to push its sale in Ploverleigh in consideration of a commission of two-and-a-half per cent. on the sales effected.

The action of the "Patent Oxy-Hydrogen Love-at-First-Sight Philtre" was rapid and powerful, and before evening there was scarcely a disengaged person (over thirteen years of age) in Ploverleigh. The Dowager Lady Fitz-Saracen, a fierce old lady of sixty, had betrothed herself to Alfred Creeper, of the "Three Fiddlers," a very worthy man, who had been engaged in the public trade all his life, and had never yet had a mark on his license. Colonel Pemberton, of The Grove, had fixed his affections on dear little Bessie Lane, the pupil teacher, and his son Willie (who had returned from Eton only the day before) had given out his engagement to kind old Mrs. Partlet, the widow of the late sexton. In point of fact there was only one disengaged person in the village—the good and grave old Bishop. He was in the position of the odd player who can't find a seat in the "Family Coach." But, on the whole, Stanley Gay was rather glad of this, as he venerated the good old prelate, and in his opinion there was no one in the village at that time who was really good enough to be a Bishop's wife, except, indeed, the dear little brown-haired, soft-eyed maiden to whom Stanley himself was betrothed.

Of course, Jessie has a tiny taste of the elixir, and while crossing the meadow meets the Bishop. Unlike in the opera, everybody remains in their new unions, leaving the Reverend Stanley Gay unattached, but somewhat consoled by the Bishop's gift of a recently vacated living at eighteen hundred a year.

You can find the whole story at en.wikisource.org

Halifax Gilbert and Sullivan Society present their

Christmas Pot-pourri

at All Saints Church Hall, Godfrey Road, Skircoat Green

on Friday 13 December at 7.45 pm

Free admission with retiring collection. Bring along your party piece!

Ring 01484 301291 for information

Fond memories of Audrey Greenwood, from Steven and Jean

Jim Newby 1938-2019

The Yorkshire (and national) Gilbert and Sullivan community lost one of its foremost practitioners with Jim's death on 3 March 2019. He became Musical Director for Halifax G & S in 1987, for *The Pirates of Penzance* and *Cox and Box*. He continued to conduct our shows (and several concert seasons) until *Patience* in 1996, and brought our musical standards to a high level. His control of the orchestra (playing his own reduction of the score) was excellent, as was the orchestra that he brought along with him, several of whom are still playing with us.



His rehearsals were most enjoyable, and even those voices who weren't being dealt with at the time could learn a lot from the way he was rehearsing someone else. He had particular (some might say idiosyncratic) ways of dealing with some elements of volume and tempo, and this writer spent happy times in the pub after rehearsal, arguing artistic matters with him.

After he finished conducting us he continued to be an enthusiastic supporter, and we were happy to see him at *Utopia* last November, shortly before he went for his heart operation.

Jim's memorial service in Bradford Cathedral brought together a host of friends and colleagues from all around, and included a roof-raising rendition of *Hail Poetry* from the congregation.

Jim will be missed by many.



Harold Galley and Eoin O'Shea



David Prosser and Kelvyn Waites

Wells and Lady Sangazure on a day out

*Wells : Hate me! I often roll down One Tree Hill
Lady Sangazure : Love me! I'll meet you there!*



(Thomas Rowlandson, 1811, from the Royal Collection)

One Tree Hill was apparently a favourite spot for mass tumbling by revellers at Greenwich Fair, which was held in the Park until 1857. Here is a more sedate illustration :



Page sponsored by Dorothy Jones and Becky Gregson-Flynn

*Wells : Hate me! I sometimes go to Rosherville!
Lady Sangazure : Love me! That joy I'll share!*

Rosherville Gardens was one of the largest and most popular Victorian pleasure gardens. It survived for seventy years, having been laid out in 1837 and finally closing to the public just before the First World War. George Jones, a businessman from Islington, formed the "Kent Zoological and Botanical Gardens Company" and persuaded people to become shareholders.

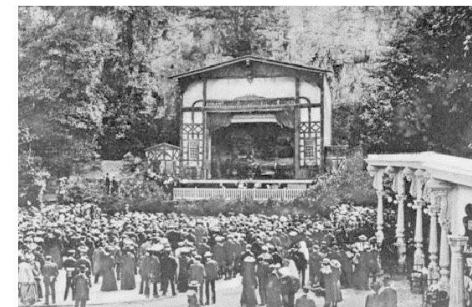
The gardens were laid out with a terrace, a bear pit, an archery ground, a lake, a maze, flower beds, statues, a lookout tower on a spur of rock and winding paths. They were intended to appeal to wealthy visitors with serious tastes. However, the wealthy visitors never came in sufficient numbers and to save the gardens, Mr Jones was forced to lower the prices and import more entertainments. From 1842, the educational aspects were forgotten and the Rosherville Gardens as they were now called became an enormous



Print by F Harwood, 1841

success. Visitors flooded in from London on the steamboats, landing at the nearby Rosherville Pier. Entertainments at the Rosherville Gardens included fireworks, tightrope walkers, balloon ascents and a gypsy fortune-teller. A new entrance was made from the London Road through a large conservatory in 1869. A large

clocktower was built by the side of the gateway. Steps inside the cliff led down to the gardens below.



The Café Chantant in about 1910

The sinking of the *Princess Alice* paddle steamer with great loss of life in 1878 started the decline of the Rosherville Gardens, which had begun to go out of fashion as Londoners could afford train trips to seaside resorts. In 1900 the Rosherville Gardens went

bankrupt and the following year many of the fixtures and fittings were sold off. The Gardens remained closed until 1903 when they were re-opened, having been bought by some local businessmen. Changes were made. The maze and the dancing

Page sponsored by Nicholas Martin (*The Zoo policeman*, 1992)

platform were swept away. The Bijou theatre became a restaurant. The outdoor stage was refurbished and called the Café Chantant. Films were shown in the Gothic Hall. A small menagerie was acquired, including a baby elephant called Kim. Despite the best efforts of the various managers the Rosherville Gardens were losing money. They closed as pleasure gardens in 1913.

*Information from Gravesham Borough Council,
http://www.discovergravesham.co.uk*



Halifax Gilbert and Sullivan Society is affiliated to the National Operatic and Dramatic Association



Affiliated to the
National Operatic and
Dramatic Association

Founded in 1899, it is the main representative body for amateur theatre in the UK. It has a membership of some 2500 amateur/community theatre groups and 3000 individual enthusiasts throughout the UK, staging musicals, operas, plays, concerts and pantomimes in a wide variety of performing venues, ranging from the country's leading theatres to village halls.

NODA is divided into 11 National Regions, each headed by a Regional Councillor who sits on the Council, the ruling body of the Association. They are supported by a network of Regional Representatives and other volunteers, who are the vital links to the grass roots of the Association, the amateur theatre companies themselves. The Association is administered from its Headquarters in Peterborough, with

knowledgeable and friendly staff able to deal with virtually any enquiry relating to amateur theatre.

NODA aims

- to give a shared voice to the amateur theatre sector
- to help amateur societies and individuals to achieve the highest standards of best practice and performance
- to provide leadership and advice to enable the amateur theatre sector to tackle the challenges and opportunities of the 21st century

National Operatic and Drama Association,
15 The Metro Centre, Peterborough, Cambridgeshire, PE2 7UH;
Tel : 01733 865790; E-mail : info@noda.org.uk; Web site : www.noda.org.uk

Previous productions of Halifax Gilbert and Sullivan Society

1971	HMS Pinafore	2007	The Pirates of Penzance
1972	Iolanthe	2008	The Sorcerer
1973	The Sorcerer	2009	The Gondoliers
1974	The Pirates of Penzance	2010	The Yeomen of the Guard
1975	The Gondoliers	2011	HMS Pinafore
1976	Princess Ida	2012	Princess Ida
1977	The Mikado	2013	The Mikado
1978	Ruddigore	2014	The Pirates of Penzance
1979	The Yeomen of the Guard	2015	Ruddigore
1980	Patience	2016	Iolanthe
1981	Trial by Jury / HMS Pinafore	2017	Patience
1982	The Sorcerer	2018	Utopia Limited
1983	The Gondoliers		
1984	Iolanthe		
1985	The Mikado		
1986	Princess Ida		
1987	Cox and Box / Pirates of Penzance		
1988	Ruddigore		
1989	Utopia Limited		
1990	The Gondoliers		
1991	The Yeomen of the Guard		
1992	The Zoo / HMS Pinafore		
1993	The Sorcerer		
1994	Iolanthe		
1995	The Mikado		
1996	Patience		
1997	The Pirates of Penzance		
1998	The Gondoliers		
1999	Princess Ida		
2000	The Yeomen of the Guard		
2001	HMS Pinafore		
2002	Ruddigore		
2003	The Mikado		
2004	Iolanthe		
2005	The Grand Duke		
2006	The Zoo / Cox & Box / Trial by Jury		

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www.thepropshop.co.uk

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Page sponsored by Andrew and Sally Stopford

ALADDIN

Written by Roy Byram

Directed by John Eastwood and Leighton Hirst

This is a traditional family pantomime – with a twist. Poor boy meets rich girl and they fall in love. Boy becomes rich, then loses his riches – and the girl.

Then all ends happily in the end !

All the ingredients are there for you to laugh, shout, boo, clap and have a really good time being transported out of this world where, supposedly, there is no atmosphere. OH YES THERE IS !

Friday 13 to Sunday 15 and Friday 20 to Sunday 22 December
Fridays and Saturdays 7.30pm. Saturday and Sunday matinées at 2.30pm



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Box Office: 01422 365998



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Haworth West Lane A.O.S.

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Baptist Chapel

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Saturday matinée at 2.15 p.m.

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and Saturday matinée

Bookings : 03336 663366 or
[www.ticketsource.co.uk/
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G & S

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Meltham

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Bookings : 01484 850771
or 07447 932794