

**Halifax Gilbert and Sullivan Society**

# The Sorcerer



**Tuesday to Saturday, November 4<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup>, 2008**  
**7.30 p.m., also 2.30 p.m. on Saturday**





## FROM THE CHAIRMAN

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to our 2008 production of *The Sorcerer*, Gilbert and Sullivan's first full-length opera.

We are pleased to see two new principal performers this year. Amy Greenwood (Aline) is well-known already at the Playhouse for her performances with All Souls Operatic Society, and Martin Whitaker (Sir Marmaduke) has performed with Wakefield and Bingley Gilbert and Sullivan Societies, as well as giving Pooh-Bah at one of our Club Nights two years ago. We have enjoyed rehearsing with them and trust that this will show in our performance.

We welcome back Margaret Schofield as Director, after a couple of years away following her *Grand Duke* production for us. Following last year's show Colin Akers wanted to take some time off as Musical Director, and we have been fortunate to obtain the services of Maureen Earl, who conducted Bradford G & S in the past and who is the current Musical Director of Aireborough Gilbert and Sullivan Society.

Later in this programme you can read the names of all the other invaluable people who help us to operate. Our accompanists, publicity team, front-of-house and backstage staff give a huge amount of their time to contribute to the finished article that you see tonight. We are deeply grateful to them.

Finally, thanks to you, our audience, without whom none of this would be possible. If you are new to us, please look at the Society's information page later in the programme, and consider becoming a member or a patron and taking part in our year-round activities. You can also visit our website at [www.halifaxgands.org.uk](http://www.halifaxgands.org.uk) for further information.

I wish you all a happy evening.

Trevor Roberts

The Society wishes to thank

- John Page and Great Yorkshire Morris, for loan of Morris costume
- David Kenyon, for loan of magician's apparatus

## 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.



The two young persons are madly in love, but Alexis has thoughts not just for themselves. Why cannot everybody share 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 ...



## CHARACTERS IN THE STORY

Sir Marmaduke Pointdextre (an Elderly Baronet)	...	Martin Whitaker
Alexis (of the Grenadier Guards, his Son)	... ..	Jonathan Wilby
Dr Daly (Vicar of Ploverleigh)	... ..	Robert Thurman
A Notary	... ..	Peter Sugden
John Wellington Wells (a Sorcerer)	... ..	Richard Buxton
Lady Sangazure (A Lady of Ancient Lineage)	... ..	Kathryn Buxton
Aline (her Daughter, betrothed to Alexis)	... ..	Amy Greenwood
Mrs Partlet (a Pew Opener)	... ..	Andrea Widdison
Constance (her Daughter)	... ..	Christine Roberts
Hercules	... ..	Tom Waites

### Waitresses and Villagers of Ploverleigh

Carole Engel	Rachel Prosser
Colin Fine	Janice Roberts
Harold Galley	Sally Roberts
Steven Greenwood	Trevor Roberts
Chris Hanson	Leyland Smith
Penny McGoverin	Marie Sugden
Helen Matthews	Kelvyn Waites
Paul Matthews	

### Mr Wells's Spirits

Chantelle Bouckley	Annie Marshall
Hannah Kalter	

### Village Children and Sprites

Elysia Armitage	Ellie Sugden
Brittany Butterworth	Emily Sugden

## 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

### Act Two

- 'Tis twelve, I think ... Why, where be 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



## PRODUCTION CREDITS

MUSICAL DIRECTOR   Maureen Earl  
STAGE DIRECTOR     Margaret Schofield

REHEARSAL PIANISTS Catherine Warwick, Philip Sutcliffe,  
Martin Whitaker, Kathryn Buxton

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

STAGE MANAGER	Andrew Stopford
SET PROVIDED BY	West Yorkshire Savoyards Appreciation Society
ASSISTANCE WITH SET	Joseph Wood
LIGHTING	Karl Eaton
COSTUMES	Ian Stead Theatrical Costumes
PROPERTIES	Nancy Kirby
ORCHESTRAL PARTS	James Newby Music
PROMPT	Brenda Priestley
TICKET SALES	Stephanie Bolton
FRONT OF HOUSE	Stephanie Bolton
PUBLICITY	Peter Sugden, Paul Matthews
FOYER DISPLAY	Kathryn Buxton
FOYER PHOTOGRAPHS	Andrew Stopford, Kelvyn Waites
PROGRAMME	Richard Buxton



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*Ian Stead Theatrical Costumer*

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Bingley Gilbert and Sullivan Society will present *The Pirates of Penzance* at  
Bingley Arts Centre, from Monday April 27<sup>th</sup> to Saturday May 2<sup>nd</sup> 2009

## THE SOCIETY

Halifax Gilbert and Sullivan Society was formed in 1968, and gave its first full-dress performance three years later at Halifax Playhouse. The annual production in the late autumn, still at the Playhouse, remains the Society's main public appearance, but we also offer a series of public concerts in the spring, usually between February and April. 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).

The Society meets to rehearse on Friday evenings throughout the year at All Saints Church Hall, Godfrey Road, Skircoat 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 chorus. Members of the public are always welcome to join us (and sing with 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!

VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT [www.halifaxgands.org.uk](http://www.halifaxgands.org.uk)



### THE COMMITTEE

Andrew Stopford (*President*), Trevor Roberts (*Chairman*), Sheila Simpson (*Chairman*), Kathryn Buxton (*Secretary*), Richard Buxton (*Treasurer*), Colin Akers, Stephanie Bolton, Christine Johnson, Paul Matthews, Peter Sugden, Kelvyn Waites.



# Albert Make Us Laugh

by Jimmy Chinn

Directed by Jeanne O'Rourke

Saturday 6th December to Saturday 13th December

Curtain 7:30pm

\* NEW - Saturday Matinee on the 13th - Curtain 2:30pm \*

A unique and touching play about Albert Nuttall, aged eleven, who some would say was backward, but is in fact very special - he is a poet and visionary. As Albert grows up he inspires unexpected depths of emotion in those around him, particularly his classmate Primrose, whose dreams fail to materialize, and the lonely young school teacher, Janet Partington.

Enacted entirely by adults, this is a poignant, moving and uplifting play and not to be missed.

A Halifax Thespians production

Coming soon locally :

Haworth West Lane A.O.S.

## The Sorcerer

Haworth West Lane  
Baptist Chapel

November 17 - 22 at 7.30 p.m.  
Saturday matinee at 2.15 p.m.

£8.00. Children £5.00

Bookings : 01535 643425

Meltham Parish Church G & S

## The Pirates Of Penzance

Church Hall  
Meltham

November 18 - 22 at 7.30 p.m.  
Saturday matinee at 2.15 p.m.

£7.50. Concessions £6.50  
Children £4.00.

Bookings : 01484 349037