

Carlinghow Theatre Company
presents

14th - 17th
September
2011

Batley
Town Hall

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STREET

Tickets £11 & £9 concessions
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Batley Gilbert & Sullivan Society

IOLANTHE

Or
The Peer and the Peri

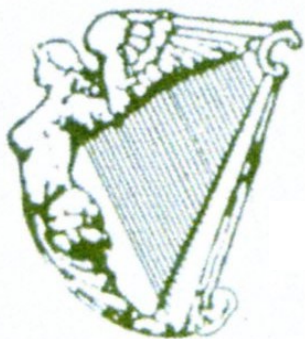
Souvenir Programme

Batley Town Hall

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Musical Director
Accompanist
Assistant Accompanists
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Make up
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Booking Manager
House Manager
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Publicity
Programme Editor

Philip Sutcliffe, Pamela Thorne and Kathryn Buxton
Philip Sutcliffe, Pamela Thorne and Kathryn Buxton
Keith Horner
Keith Horner
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Margaret Hanson, Fi Baker & Pamela Thorne
The Boyz, Ian Stead and the Society's Wardrobe
Stephanie Roe
Debbie Stringer
Chris Sowerby
Audrey Evans
Margaret Hanson
Penny McGoverin
Robert Thurman

Our grateful thanks to the front of house staff and all those who have helped with this production.

A Scene from last year's production of 'Utopia Limited'



This page sponsored by Peter and Marie Sugden

Batley Gilbert & Sullivan Society

The Yeomen of the Guard

Wednesday April 25th to
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Batley Gilbert & Sullivan Society

Presents



Ladies and gentlemen, it gives me great pleasure to welcome you to Batley Town Hall.

Iolanthe was the seventh of Gilbert and Sullivan's operas, opening at the Savoy Theatre on 25th November 1882, running for 398 performances. Coincidentally, this is the Society's seventh production of the show since its formation in 1949.

Performing in the Little Theatre for more than twenty years, we were devastated to be given three months notice of its closure. Whilst the fabric of the building had deteriorated, the theatre provided intimate accommodation for the Society's productions. Regrettably, given the economic climate, our local authority cannot finance the works needed to meet the standards for public buildings.

The move has posed real logistical problems, not least the need to change (for this year only) our regular performance date. The availability of alternative

venues at short notice left us with this week or cancellation. Prior commitments have also meant some of our members have been unable to perform with us. Our set has had to be considerably modified to fill the increased height at the Town Hall. But the show must go on!

The Society performed several shows at the Town Hall before moving to the Little Theatre and so, to some extent, is familiar with the venue. There can be no doubt the facilities provided have been improved and the central location must be seen to be an advantage. Public halls of this type, however, cannot provide the atmosphere generated in a specifically created theatre, a feature sadly lacking in North Kirklees.

*This page sponsored by Sally and Catherine Roberts
In loving memory of Allan and Margaret Haigh*

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Irene Richardson

The Society was sad to hear of the death Of Irene Richardson on Easter Sunday, at the age of eighty-nine.

Irene was a founder member of the Society, having been a member of the choir at Hanover Street Congregational Church.



Playing Hebe in 'HMS Pinafore'

She took a variety of roles and continued as a member of the chorus for many years.

She was an active member of the committee and was our first lady President. She remained an active



Dedicated to the memory of Alison Sowerby

For the fairy who reached for the stars, and became an angel.

*This page kindly sponsored by John and Elaine Berry
Solent G & S, Isle of Wight and ex-Batley*



The Gentlemens Chorus

Clive Daniel, Graham Robson, Kelvyn Waites, Andrew Stopford,



The Ladies Chorus

Deirdre O'Shea, Sally Roberts, Catherine Roberts, Jennifer Day,

***The Society would like to acknowledge the following
for their generosity and support:***

Mr J B Ackroyd, Mrs S L Bathgate, Mr A Brook, Mrs H Browell,
Mr & Mrs J Daniels, Mrs S Firth, Mr & Mrs G M Harrap, Mr D W Hunt,
Mr D Owens, Mr J Walker

Party Bookings:

Headfield Junior School, Dewsbury
Longcauseway United Church, Dewsbury
St Paulinus Catholic Church, Dewsbury

Thanks also to:

Millennium Players for scenery storage,
St Andrew's Church and Batley Irish Democratic League Club for rehearsal facilities.
Orchestra rail kindly loaned by Batley Amateur Thespian Society

The following have kindly sponsored costumes:

Invited Guests

The Deputy Mayor of Kirklees and Consort
Councillor Christine Iredale and Mr Robert Iredale
Auditions Panel - David Heathcote, Jayne Griffin, Jane Fawcett and guests
NODA Representative
Representatives from Leeds, Halifax, Harrogate and Wakefield
Gilbert & Sullivan Societies, Batley Amateur Thespian Society
Carlinghow Theatre Company, Dewsbury Collegians

Honorary Life Members of the Society

Mrs M Harrap, Mr K Horner, Mrs M Newell,
Mr R B Pearson, Mrs S L Roe, Mr G Weston

NODA Long Service Medal Holders

Mr K Horner, Mrs C Parkinson, Mr M G Parkinson, Mr R B Pearson,
Mrs I Richardson, Mrs S Roberts, Mrs S L Roe, Mr C J Sowerby,
Mr C R Thurman, Mrs K Thurman, Mr I Townend

Would you like to join us?

We rehearse every Wednesday at 7.30pm at St Andrew's
Church Hall, Purlwell, Batley.

For further details visit our illustrated website

www.batleygands.org.uk

Or contact our **Secretary:** Lyndsey Hall
180 Thorncroft Terrace, Halifax Road, Dewsbury (Tel: 01924 525417)

Officials of the Society

President: Robert Thurman

Vice Presidents: Margaret Hanson , Fi Baker

Secretary: Lyndsey Hall

Treasurer: Andrew Stopford

Publicity Officer: Penny McGoverin

Executive Committee Members

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Deirdre O'Shea

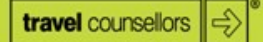
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Celia - Lisa O'Shea

Following in the footsteps of her grandparents, who met through a G&S group in Cork, Ireland, Lisa moved to Leeds aged three making her debut with Heckmondwike players, aged 14, in *Oliver*. She joined Batley G&S in 2007 as a chorus member in *The Sorcerer* and last year took the role of Princess Nekeya in *Utopia Limited*. She is currently studying at Leeds

Leila - Kathryn Buxton

Brought up in the Methodist choral tradition, Kathryn started singing with Halifax Choral Society while still at school, but she was kidnapped by Halifax G and S during a joint concert. Shortly afterwards she was tricked into becoming Secretary, where she still finds herself twenty-five years later. Her many roles



Fleta - Tracey Hook

Tracey has been an active chorus member of the Society since 1998. It is the second time she has performed *Iolanthe*. She has also performed with Carlinghow Amateur Operatic Society in productions including *Annie* and *The Wizard of Oz*. Performing with Batley Gilbert &



Our Production Team

Musical Director - Colin Akers

Colin started his musical life quite late at the age of eleven and at sixteen went to Cheethams School of Music with joint first study instruments of piano and flute. From there he went to Huddersfield University and studied primarily music performance. He joined Halifax Gilbert & Sullivan Society in 1988, initially as accompanist, and was promoted to Musical Director in 2000 where his first Show was 'Yeomen of the Guard'. *Iolanthe* is Colin's fifth show at Batley, having directed us in *Patience*, *The Gondoliers* and *Pirates of Penzance*. and *Utopia Limited* As well as being an ac-



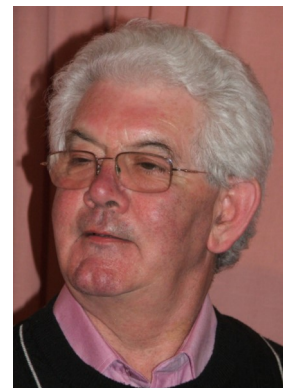
Producer - Philip Sutcliffe

Philip got his first piano at the tender age of five. Although it stood just three inches off the ground, had only nine keys and was made of purple plastic he made swift progress and eventually managed to gain entrance into Huddersfield University where he studied big piano. Having spent several years studying music he ran away to join a touring theatre company. As an actor he has toured most of England, the bottom bit of Germany and bits of Scotland, including taking shows to the Edinburgh



Accompanist - John Hall

This is John's third show with Batley Gilbert & Sullivan Society. Over the years he has accompanied Dewsbury Collegians, Batley Amateur Thespian Society and Dewsbury Concert Society. He is a member of Mirfield Choral Society and also sings with the Longcauseway Church Choir in Dewsbury.



Iolanthe

or

The Peer and the Peri

DRAMATIS PERSONÆ

THE LORD CHANCELLOR
EARL OF MOUNTARARAT
EARL TOLLOLLER
PRIVATE WILLIS
(*of the Grenadier Guards*)
STREPHON
berg
(*an Arcadian Shepherd*)
QUEEN OF THE FAIRIES
IOLANTHE
ter
(*a Fairy, Strephon's Mother*)

FAIRIES:

CELIA
O'Shea
LEILA
ton
FLETA
Hook
PHYLLIS

Robert Thurman
Trevor Roberts
Ian Townend
Gerald Tinson

Leon Waks-

Penny McGoverin
Rebecca Fos-

Lisa

Kathryn Bux-

Tracey

Anna

Penny McGoverin - The Fairy Queen

This is Penny's 8th show at Batley, playing Lady Angela in *Patience*, Inez in *Gondoliers*, Mrs Partlett in *Sorcerer* and Melene in *Utopia Ltd.* She is pleased to be playing the Fairy Queen in *Iolanthe*. Penny also sings with Halifax G&S for whom she has played the role of Baroness von Krakenfeldt in *Grand Duke*, Counsel for the Plaintiff in *Trial by Jury*, the Duchess of Plaza Toro in *Gondoliers* and most recently, Dame Carruthers in *Yeoman of the Guard*. She is looking forward to performing Buttercup in the forthcoming production of *HMS Pinafore* in November. She enjoys the concert



Rebecca Foster - Iolanthe

Rebecca has been involved in drama in one form or another since she was eight. Having graduated from the University of Huddersfield she decided to further her training at the London School of Dramatic Art where she was privileged to work with notable names in the industry. Theatre Credits include *Whale Music* LSDA, *London Your Fault*, The Courtyard Theatre, *The Canterbury Tales* BAC London, *The Pizza Man* Soho Theatre. However, she returned "up north" to take part in the local production of *The*



Special Guest Appearance Shaun the Sheep

Shaun made his acting debut in the award winning short film 'A Close Shave' in 1995. Since then he has worked closely with Nick Park and the team at Aardman Animations, being given his own BBC series in 2007. Shaun's first love however remains with the theatre and he is delighted to be making his debut with





Leon Waksberg - Strephon

Leon began singing in 2000 when he joined the Gilbert and Sullivan Society at Bradford University, playing Pish-Tush in *the Mikado*. Since then he has stayed in the area, and played most of the tenor and 'juvenile baritone' roles in many of the local G&S societies. Leon's previous role at Batley was Florian in the 2004 production of *Princess Ida*, and he can

Gerald Tinson - Private Willis

Gerald started his G&S singing in Honley in the late '70s and then joined Meltham G&S in 1990. More recently he has appeared in two productions with Huddersfield G&S and is now rapidly approaching 50 such shows. Despite this total he does enjoy a change and has performed with "Spot On" (Moldgreen) in *South Pacific*, *Wind in the Willows*, *King & I*, *Snow White*, *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to*



Anna Trent - Phyllis

Anna graduated from the University of Huddersfield in 2006 after completing a BMus (hons) and an MA in performance. She has since been frequently invited to perform at various concerts and recitals up and down the country. Anna has performed for several local Gilbert and Sullivan societies including Huddersfield, Halifax, Meltham and Batley. Roles performed include the title role in *Iolanthe*, Josephine in *HMS Pinafore*, Casilda in *The Gondoliers*, Mabel



Musical Numbers

Overture

Act 1

1. "Tripping hither, tripping thither" *Celia, Leila, and Chorus of Fairies*
2. "Iolanthe! From thy dark exile thou art summoned"
Queen, Iolanthe, Celia, Leila, and Chorus of Fairies
3. "Good-morrow, good mother" *Strephon and Chorus of Fairies*
4. "Fare thee well, attractive stranger" *Queen and Chorus of Fairies*
- 4a. "Good-morrow, good lover" *Phyllis and Strephon*
5. "None shall part us from each other" *Phyllis and Strephon*
6. "Loudly let the trumpet bray" *Chorus of Peers*
7. "The law is the true embodiment" *Lord Chancellor and Chorus of Peers*
8. "My well-loved Lord" and Barcarole, "Of all the young ladies I know"
Phyllis, Lord Tolloller, and Lord Mountararat
9. "Nay, tempt me not" *Phyllis*
10. "Spurn not the nobly born" *Lord Tolloller and Chorus of Peers*
11. "My lords, it may not be"
Phyllis, Tolloller, Mountararat, Strephon, Chancellor, & Chorus of Peers
12. "When I went to the Bar" *Lord Chancellor*
13. Finale Act I *Ensemble*
"When darkly looms the day"
"The lady of my love has caught me talking to another"
"Go away, madam"

Iolanthe - the story



Twenty-five years before the setting of the opera, Iolanthe, a fairy, had committed the capital offence of marrying a mortal. The Queen of the Fairies had commuted the sentence to lifelong exile, on condition that Iolanthe left her husband and never saw him again.

Her son, Strephon, has grown up as a shepherd, half fairy, half mortal. Strephon loves Phyllis, who is a Ward of the Court of Chancery. She loves Strephon, but is unaware of his mixed origin.

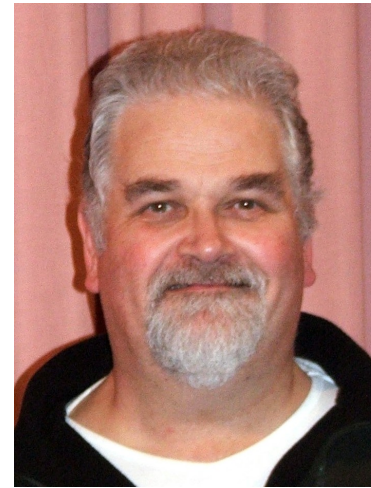
Meanwhile, the entire House of Lords is enamoured of Phyllis, especially the Lord Chancellor, her guardian. At the start of the opera, the fairies persuade the Queen to pardon Iolanthe, and she returns, introducing Strephon to her sisters. The Queen agrees to help when Strephon announces that he wishes to marry Phyllis, despite the Lord Chancellor's refusal.

The House of Lords enter, and appeal to the Lord Chancellor to give her to whichever peer she chooses. Phyllis herself enters, and declines to marry a peer, announcing her intention to marry Strephon. The peers angrily refuse, and leave, taking Phyllis with them. Iolanthe enters and holds a tender conversation with her son. But, as she (like all fairies) looks like a girl of seventeen, Phyllis and the peers misinterpret the scene. They don't believe that Strephon is being faithful, and Phyllis decides to marry one of two peers, Mountararat or Tolloller.

The fairies take revenge by sending Strephon to Parliament, and casting a spell to make all the peers pass any bills that Strephon chooses, including entry depending on intelligence rather than class. The peers are terrified, and appeal to the fairies not to carry this out, but they refuse, so all angrily spurn each other.

The peers are upset about Strephon's success in Parliament, and appeal for the fairies to return things to normal. One of the lords sings in explanation. The fairies would like to oblige, as they have fallen in love with the peers themselves, but it is too late to stop Strephon. The Queen is shocked by the fairies' feminine weakness, and while acknowledging the effect on her, of a nearby sentry, asserts that she remains strong.

Tolloller and Mountararat discover that if either marries Phyllis, then by family



Robert Thurman
The Lord Chancellor

This is Robert's fourth production of *Iolanthe*, but the first time he has played the Chancellor. He has been a member of the Society for thirty five years and is one of the few who can claim to have taken principal roles in all thirteen of Gilbert & Sullivan's magical operettas. He has also performed with Halifax and Meltham G & S So-

Trevor Roberts - Lord Mountararat

Trevor is a self confessed Gilbert & Sullivan addict and also proudly boasts to have performed all thirteen of the Gilbert & Sullivan operettas on stage. Previous roles include Dr Daly (his favourite) & Notary in *The Sorcerer*, Lord Mountararat in *Iolanthe*, Scaphio & Sir Bailey Barr in *Utopia Ltd*, Sergeant Meryll & Lieutenant



Ian Townend - Lord Tolloller



Ian has been a member of the society since 1985 and since then has never missed a show! He has played most of the G and S tenor leads and now as he is "maturing" enjoys cameo roles and the fun and frolics of the chorus! As well as enjoying G and S he is a keen choral singer in local church