

Batley Gilbert & Sullivan
Society

THE
MIKADO

Batley Town Hall

6th - 9th April 2022

Souvenir Programme



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A message from the President

Well, who could have imagined what was going to happen back in March 2020? How lovely it is to be able to welcome you back to Batley Town Hall, ladies and gentlemen.

We were delighted, last October, to be able to re-unite as a society to start rehearsals for *The Mikado*. Thankfully we were able to pick up where we left off with a slightly revised cast.

We have really enjoyed rehearsals under the direction of Richard Buxton as Musical Director and David Hall as Producer. Richard is no stranger to Batley as he has appeared with us on stage in principal roles in several shows. He can normally be found waving the baton for Halifax Gilbert & Sullivan Society but he has also produced for them. David has been our Musical Director as well as performing with us both as a principal and in the chorus. He set up Batley Jubilee Chorus, which was a joint venture with Carlinghow Theatre Company and Batley Amateur Thespian Society. David is now adding another string to his bow by taking on the mantle of Producer.

The Mikado remains one of the all-time favourites by the famous Victorian duo and was the very first production by Batley in 1949, when it was known as the Augmented Choir of Hanover Street Congregational Church, based just a short distance away from Batley Town Hall.

Our members are looking forward to strutting their stuff for you. We have had so much fun preparing for this show and we hope our enthusiasm comes across. So sit back, relax, and let us entertain you. Of course, the Society could not survive without its band of loyal members and helpers, but without you, our audience, and your continuing support, we would have no future and no real purpose.

Thank You

Stephanie Roe – President

Obituary - Mr Clive Moul

The Society was sorry to hear of the recent death of Clive Moul. Clive was a very active member of the Society for many years, performing most of the bass-baritone principal roles from the Gilbert & Sullivan repertoire. He had been looking forward to seeing this production.

The Society extends its sympathy to his wife, Barbara, who was a founder member of the Society, and their family.



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Dramatic Association

The Mikado

Presented by
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OF
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BATLEY.

SATURDAY	MARCH 12th	10.00
SUNDAY	"	10.00
THURSDAY	"	10.00
WEDNESDAY	"	10.00
THURSDAY	"	10.00
SATURDAY	"	10.00

10.00 - 10.30

ADMISSION
SATURDAYS 2/-
WEEKDAYS 1/-

PROGRAMME

The Mikado at Batley

Since its formation in 1949, the Society has performed *The Mikado* on eight occasions and in four locations in the town. Initially formed as an augmented choir of the Hanover Street Congregational Church, the group later took the name Batley Congregational Operatic Society and performed there until 1972, when the Church closed, merging with Cross Bank Methodist Church. Shows under the name of Batley Gilbert & Sullivan Society continued there until 1981 when those premises also closed. Shows moved to the Town Hall until 1988, when a transfer to Dewsbury Little Theatre in Batley Carr took place. When Kirklees decided to demolish the premises and sell the land, the Town Hall once again became our home.



The programme and cast of 1949 together with a contemporary advert I

The very first production took place on Saturday 12th March 1949 followed by a further five performances throughout the week. Tickets cost 3/- (15p) or 3/6d (17½p) on Saturdays. It was produced by Councillor W. Stubbs, and Mr H Mason was the Musical Director. At that point it was traditional for local dignitaries to be invited as 'openers' for every performance.

A further production took place in 1959, and in 1968 our President, Stephanie Roe, made her first appearance in the chorus. She has remained a loyal member and after fifty four years appears today in the role of Katisha. Subsequent performances were staged in 1977, 1986, 1995, 2005 and 2014.

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The cast of our 1968 production at Hanover Street Congregational Church



The programme and scenes from our 2005 production at the Little Theatre



The Plot

ACT I - In the Courtyard of Ko-Ko's Official Residence in Titipu.

The act opens with a group of Japanese nobles in characteristic attitudes. Nanki-Poo, the son of the Mikado masquerading as a musician, returns to Titipu eagerly seeking Yum-Yum, as he has heard that Ko-Ko was condemned to death for flirting. He introduces himself, and, to his dismay, he learns from Pish-Tush that although Ko-Ko was indeed to have been beheaded, he was reprieved at the last moment and made Lord High Executioner instead. As the criminals must be executed in order, and Ko-Ko was next to be executed, no one else can be executed until Ko-Ko cuts off his own head.

For a small fee, Pooh-Bah, a ponderous aggregation of conflicts of interest, reveals that Yum-Yum is on her way home from school and will be wed to Ko-Ko this very afternoon. The nobles herald the appearance of Ko-Ko who explains how he became the Lord High Executioner. He is full of ideas for his first official victim. He discusses with Pooh-Bah the plans for his forthcoming marriage.

A procession of schoolgirls arrives, followed by Yum-Yum and her sisters, Pitti-Sing and Peep-Bo . Yum-Yum greets her betrothed decidedly less enthusiastically than she does Nanki-Poo. Ko-Ko introduces Pooh-Bah, who greets the girls very reluctantly. They respond teasingly.

Taking advantage of a few minutes alone with Yum-Yum, Nanki-Poo declares his love and shares with her the secret of his identity. Because of the excessive laws against flirting, Yum-Yum urges him to stay away from her. Nanki-Poo devises a plan to flirt by considering what they could do if it weren't for the law.

Ko-Ko, meanwhile, has received a letter from the Mikado, who is concerned that there have been no recent executions in Titipu and threatens severe repercussions if one does not take place within a month, including reducing the town to the rank of a village. Although, as Pooh-Bah points out, Ko-Ko is next in line for that honour, Ko-Ko understandably would prefer to find a substitute. Ko-Ko, Pooh-Bah, and Pish-Tush debate who should be executed.

Ko-Ko discovers Nanki-Poo preparing to terminate his existence rather than face life without Yum-Yum, and the two men strike a bargain: Ko-Ko agrees to let Nanki-Poo marry Yum-Yum now, and, in return, Nanki-Poo agrees to let Ko-Ko behead him at the end of the month and marry his widow.

The townsmen want to know how Ko-Ko will comply with the Mikado's decree. Ko-Ko introduces Nanki-Poo as his volunteer, and Nanki-Poo embraces Yum-Yum. All rejoice over this resolution, but the festivities are rudely interrupted by the appearance of Katisha. All cower except Pitti-Sing, who taunts Katisha. Katisha grieves her lost love. Furious at Nanki-Poo's rejection, she attempts to reveal his true identity. She is silenced by the crowd, but vows revenge.

This page has been kindly sponsored by Cllr & Mrs David Hall

ACT II - Ko-Ko's Garden, Later the Same Day

As the act begins, Yum-Yum's sisters and friends are helping her make ready for her wedding. She concludes that she is more lovely than any other woman because she is a child of nature and takes after her mother.

Yum-Yum and her sisters are sad at the thought of the very brief marriage, and Nanki-Poo enters and tries to lift their spirits. The wedding plans are disrupted by Ko-Ko's revelation that, under the Mikado's law, when a married man is beheaded, his wife must be buried alive. Yum-Yum's enthusiasm for the marriage is suddenly diminished.

To spare Yum-Yum this grim fate, Nanki-Poo decides to kill himself at once. This, however, would leave Ko-Ko with nobody to behead - just as word arrives that the Mikado is at this very minute approaching Titipu. Nanki-Poo offers himself for immediate decapitation, but Ko-Ko is not equal to the task. Ko-Ko realizes, though, that he can accomplish the same purpose by swearing a false affidavit that he has done the deed, provided that Nanki-Poo leaves at once and never comes back. Since Nanki-Poo will not leave otherwise, Ko-Ko sends Yum-Yum with him, and the happy couple go off to be married just as the Mikado enters the town.

As the Mikado enters, he describes how he, in a fatherly kind of way, governs each tribe and sect. Then he describes how he wants to make the punishment fit the crime.

The Mikado is delighted that an execution has taken place, and is eager to hear the details. Ko-Ko, assisted by Pitti-Sing and Pooh-Bah, provides a highly creative description of the execution.

The Mikado's visit, however, concerns another matter: at Katisha's prompting, he is seeking the whereabouts of his son. Unfortunately, this turns out to be Nanki-Poo, the man Ko-Ko has just testified he beheaded. Ko-Ko and his accomplices are declared guilty of "compassing the death of the Heir Apparent" and scheduled to die after luncheon - "something humorous, but lingering, with either boiling oil or melted lead."

The Mikado declares that he is sorry for them, but it is an unjust world, and virtue is triumphant only in theatrical performances. Their only hope is to admit the falsehood of the affidavit and of their testimony, and produce Nanki-Poo alive and well. Nanki-Poo, however, having already married Yum-Yum, is no longer free to marry Katisha and thus cannot reveal himself without risking both his own life and his wife's. Ko-Ko is left with no other choice but to woo, win, and wed Katisha himself.

Katisha is very upset over the loss of Nanki-Poo. She at first refuses Ko-Ko, but on hearing him sing the touching ballad Tit Willow, she relents and accepts him.

Nanki-Poo then returns to life and presents himself - and his new bride - to his father. Ko-Ko devises an explanation of his subterfuge that satisfies the Mikado, who commutes his death sentence to one of life with Katisha. All ends with laughing song.

Dramatis Personae

The Mikado of Japan	Chris Hall	
Nanki-Poo (<i>his Son, disguised as a wandering minstrel. in love with YumYum</i>)	Steven Greenwood	
Ko-Ko (<i>Lord High Executioner of Titipu</i>)	Malcolm Parkinson	
Pooh-Bah (<i>Lord High Everything Else</i>)	David Parker	
Fish-Tush (<i>a Noble Lord</i>)	Oliver McGreevy	
Yum-Yum	Carol Parkinson	
Pitti-Sing	} <i>Three Sisters - Wards of Ko-Ko</i>	Rebekah Barker
Peep-Bo		Deirdre O'Shea
Katisha (<i>an elderly lady, in love with Nanki-Poo</i>)	Stephanie Roe	

Chorus of Schoolgirls and Nobles

Simon Bray, Faith Church, Janet Edmond, Richard Grigg,
Lyndsey Hall, Tracey Hook, Rita Jno-Baptiste, Tony Johnson,
Julie King, Edwin Kirkwood, Caroline Ledgard, Debbie Moores,
Martina O'Rourke, Steve Roe, Peter Sugden.

ACT I - In the Courtyard of Ko-Ko's Official Residence in Titipu.

ACT II - Ko-Ko's Garden, Later the Same Day

The ladies and gentlemen of our wonderful orchestra under the baton of our Musical Director, Richard Buxton:

Violins - Kate Ghent (Leader), Michelle Northam,
Becky Mellings, Mary Barber:

Viola - Andrew Bedford; **Cello** - Oona Hall; **Bass** - Susan Morgan

Trumpet - Rebecca Todd; **Trombone** - Ian Graham; **Horn** - Joanne Beaumont;

Clarinets - Gary White, Tony Dylak;

Flute - Jayne White; **Oboe** - Rachel O'Sullivan;

Percussion - Neil Graham

Musical Numbers

Act I Overture

1. "If you want to know who we are!" *Chorus of Nobles*
2. "A wand'ring minstrel I" *Nanki-Poo and chorus of Nobles*
3. "Our great Mikado, virtuous man" *Pish-Tush and chorus of Nobles*
4. "Young man, despair" *Pooh-Bah, Pish-Tush and Nanki-Poo*
- 4a. "And have I journey'd for a month" *Nanki-Poo and Pooh-Bah*
5. "Behold the Lord High Executioner" *Ko-Ko with chorus of Nobles*
- 5a. "As some day it may happen" *Ko-Ko with chorus of Nobles*
6. "Comes a train of little ladies" *Chorus of girls*
7. "Three little maids from school are we" *Yum-Yum, Pitti-Sing,
Peep-Bo and chorus of girls*
8. "So please you, sir, we much regret" *Yum-Yum, Pitti-Sing,
Peep-Bo, Pooh-Bah and chorus of girls*
9. "Were you not to Ko-Ko plighted" *Yum-Yum and Nanki-Poo*
10. "I am so proud" *Ko-Ko, Pooh-Bah and Pish-Tush*
11. Finale Act I "With aspect stern and gloomy stride"

Act II

12. "Braid the raven hair" *Pitti-Sing and chorus of girls*
13. "The sun, whose rays are all ablaze" *Yum-Yum*
14. "Brightly dawns our wedding day" *Yum-Yum, Nanki-Poo,
Pitti-Sing and Pish-Tush*
15. "Here's a how-de-do!" *Yum-Yum, Nanki-Poo and Ko-Ko*
16. "Mi-ya-sa-ma, mi-ya-sa-ma!" *Katisha, The Mikado and chorus*
17. "A more humane Mikado never did in Japan exist" *The Mikado
and chorus*
18. "The criminal cried as he dropped him down" *Ko-Ko,
Pitti-Sing, Pooh-Bah and chorus*
19. "See how the fates their gifts allot" *The Mikado, Katisha,
Ko-Ko, Pooh-Bah and Pitti-Sing*
20. "The flowers that bloom in the spring" *Nanki-Poo and Yum-Yum
with Ko-Ko, Pooh-Bah and Pitti-Sing*
21. "Alone, and yet alive" *Katisha*
22. "On a tree by a willow a little Tom-tit" *Ko-Ko*
23. "There is beauty in the bellow of the blast" *Katisha and Ko-Ko*
24. Finale Act II "For he's gone and married Yum-Yum"

The Mikado of Japan - Chris Hall



Chris has been actively involved in the local amateur theatre scene for twenty years now, and has two badges to prove it (available to view on written request). He has taken parts both large and small in various musicals, primarily with Carlinghow Theatre Company. His last role with Batley Gilbert & Sullivan Society was Ko-ko the tailor in their 2014 production of *The Mikado*, and he returns this year as none other than the Emperor of Japan, which is quite a promotion!

Nanki-Poo - Steven Greenwood

Steven is well known in the local amateur G & S circuit, having played all the leading tenor roles. This is the second time he has played the role of Nanki-Poo with Batley as he goes back to the days when productions were staged in Cross Bank Church Hall. He has also produced most of the Savoy operas and is not afraid to deviate from the traditional style. Away from G & S he has enjoyed a varied singing career ranging from Barbershop to Grand Opera, his formative vocal training having been provided by the late John Tetlow.



Ko-Ko - Malcolm Parkinson

During Jonathan Miller's celebrated production for the ENO at the Colosseum, an ambitious tradition developed which was to have a new list song for each performance. It is a tradition with its roots in Dewsbury. Playing Ko-Ko was Eric Idle, whose grandfather worked on the railways in Dewsbury. Each day he would pore over *The Standard* and produce a list song based on that day's news. At the half, there was a knock on the door by the man in the pit, Martin Handley, whose father and grandfather were born in Dewsbury "List" said Martin. A hand with a piece of paper would appear round the door. "List" replied Eric. In that tradition, although there hasn't been much going on of late, I offer you my list. Whilst I cannot promise that it will be different for each performance, as Pooh-Bah would say, "A man might try!"



Pooh-Bah - David Parker

David has been a regular performer at Batley since making his first appearance as Giuseppe in *The Gondoliers* at the Little Theatre in 2008. He is well versed in the lore of Gilbert & Sullivan, and has performed many of the principal bass/baritone roles with several local groups, including Harrogate, Leeds and Wakefield Gilbert & Sullivan Societies. He also appears regularly with the West Yorkshire Savoyards.



Fish-Tush - Oliver McGreevy

Oliver is relatively new to the stage, making his theatrical debut around six years ago. He found his love for musical theatre and the world of G & S in particular as a member of societies whilst studying Economics at Newcastle University, and has been hooked ever since. So far Oliver has played a few exciting principal roles in *Utopia Limited*, *The Pirates of Penzance*, and *Peter Pan* amongst others. Besides rehearsing for the show, Oliver currently works in an educational setting, and keeps himself busy with fitness and cats. After graduating, Oliver joined Batley G & S, and he is thrilled to be able to perform his first show with the society at last.



Katisha - Stephanie Roe

Stephanie is delighted to be playing Katisha once more. It remains one of her favourite roles. She feels she is a lady of great contrasts. Although she has a domineering, intimidating persona, she is really a softie at heart and longs to be loved. She considers it a pleasure to be playing opposite Malcolm Parkinson in the role of Ko-Ko. The dialogue between them is challenging but also great fun. Bring it on Ko-Ko!



Yum-Yum - Carol Parkinson

Carol's introduction to the Savoy Operas was via her father's collection of LPs entitled "The World of Gilbert & Sullivan". She made her first appearance in a production when she was in the chorus of *The Mikado* while studying for her A Levels, and Gilbert & Sullivan has remained a firm favourite ever since. Carol has worked with other groups in the past but Batley is very much her home society, and she is delighted to be able to play Yum-Yum in this production which looked, for a while, as if it was never going to happen!



Pitti-Sing - Bex Barker

After training from a young age as a classical guitarist, pianist and singer, Rebekah's G & S life began in Leeds when she appeared in *Ruddigore* in 2008. She has been performing regularly with Batley since 2014 when she played the part of Peep-Bo in *The Mikado*, making this her second adventure to the town of Titipu. When she isn't treading the boards she enjoys singing with local chamber choir The Bluebird Singers, as well as knitting for various charities and walking with her husband.



Peep-Bo - Deirdre O'Shea

Deirdre joined the Society in 2008, appearing in the chorus of *The Sorcerer*. She enjoyed it so much, she has been performing in G & S shows ever since, following in the footsteps of her parents who met through a G & S group in Ireland.

She grew up in Cork, listening to songs from the various shows, so when the opportunity arose to join the Society, she grabbed it with both hands. Deirdre has appeared in shows with local societies over the last thirteen years, performing with Halifax G & S, Heckmondwike players, Carlinghow Theatre company and Buttershaw St Paul's AODS. She is looking forward to performing the role of Peep-Bo.



Producer ~ David Hall



This is David's first show as Producer, although he is no stranger to the top team, having been Musical Director for our productions in 2004, 2008 and 2012.

Well-known to local audiences, David has also been Musical Director for Carlinghow Theatre Company and Batley Amateur Thespians. He has appeared in many of their shows, and also in cabarets with the group Songsational.

His first introduction to Gilbert & Sullivan was seeing *The Mikado* at Batley Town Hall in 1986, and the following year he played Frederick in a children's production of *The Pirates of Penzance*. During the last 35 years he has taken many principal parts and been involved with 18 of the Batley productions.

David directed Mirfield Choral Society for 17 years and is Organist & Choirmaster at Longcauseway Church, Dewsbury. By day, he teaches singing at Heckmondwike Grammar School and at Silcoates School, Wakefield, and has been a local councillor since 2004.

David says he is privileged to produce his first show at Batley. He has enjoyed rehearsals immensely and wishes our audience and cast a hugely enjoyable performance.

Why not come and 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 Carol Parkinson

Tel: 01924 456780

**The Society would like to express its
thanks to the following,
for agreeing to understudy various
principal roles:**

Leon Waksberg - Nanki-Poo,
Pish-Tush, Ko-Ko

Anna Trent - Yum-Yum,

Liz Blount - Yum-Yum, Pitti-Sing

Kathryn Buxton, - Katiisha, Pitti-Sing,
David Hall - Pooh-Bah, The Mikado

Ian Grange - Ko-Ko

Chorus of Schoolgirls and Nobles



Faith Church



Janet Edmond



Lyndsey Hall



Tracey Hook



Rita Jno-Baptiste



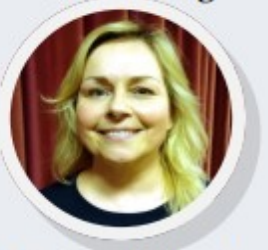
Julie King



Caroline Ledgard



Debbie Moores



Martina O'Rourke



Simon Bray



Richard Grigg



Edwin Kirkwood



Tony Johnson



Steve Roe



Peter Sugden

Musical Director - Richard Buxton



Richard Buxton began singing Gilbert and Sullivan in his mid-thirties, and played a succession of middle-aged and elderly juvenile leads before a perceptive director finally allowed him to act his age.

In *The Mikado* he has been a widely-travelled Nanki-Poo, having played the part in Rome, Muscat (in the presence of the Japanese Ambassador to Oman) and Halifax. Since 1982 in Huddersfield and Halifax he has worked through most of the G & S canon several times in various roles, and has played all three parts in *Cox and Box* (though not in the same production). Batley G & S have called upon him from time to time when they were short of an Old Bald Bloke, and he has appeared for them in *The Gondoliers*, *The Sorcerer* twice, *Utopia Limited*, *Trial by Jury* and *HMS Pinafore*.

He took up the conductor's baton in Halifax in 2009, when he was Treasurer and they couldn't afford to pay anyone, and found to his delight that the orchestra appeared able to follow his beat. Since then he has also directed eight shows for Halifax, enjoying the absence of artistic friction between director and conductor.

Outside Gilbert and Sullivan Richard has enjoyed playing a variety of psychopaths and dysfunctional husbands in Stephen Sondheim musicals for Dewsbury Arts Group. His latest appearances there were in Rodgers and Hart's *Pal Joey* in the pivotal roles of "man in hat shop" and Ludlow Lowell (an ageing clapped-out tenor in a Chicago night club). He sings with Halifax Choral Society and has been a regular supporter of Opera North since their opening night in 1978.

He is delighted to have been asked to come and work with so many friends both on stage and in the orchestra pit.

Costumes have been kindly sponsored by the following

Katisha - In loving memory of Renee and Geoff Kitson

Ko-Ko - Sir Hugh Jharse

A Victorian Gentleman - In memory of Lyn

This page is sponsored in loving memory of Jonny. Never forgotten.



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Our previous productions

Show	Production Years
The Gondoliers	2017 2007 1998 1991 1981 1970 1961 1952
The Grand Duke	1969
HMS Pinafore	2015 2003 1993 1984 1974 1966 1954
Iolanthe	2011 2001 1992 1983 1972 1960 1950.
The Mikado	2014 2005 1995 1986 1977 1968 1959 1949
Patience	2006 1996 1985 1971 1958
The Pirates of Penzance	2019 2009 1999 1989 1979 1973 1962 1951
Princess Ida	2016 2004 1994 1982 1976 1964 1956
Ruddigore	2013 2002 1987 1975 1963 1953
The Sorcerer	2018 2008 1997 1988 1980 1967
Trial By Jury	2015 2003 1993 1984 1974 1966
The Yeomen of Guard	2012 2000 1990 1978 1965 1955
Utopia Limited	2010 1957

We hope you have enjoyed our show.

Our 2023 production will be

Iolanthe

26th - 29th April 2023

Batley Town Hall

Details to follow

This page has been kindly sponsored by Deirdre O'Shea.

Acknowledgements

Producer/Director	David Hall
Musical Director	Richard Buxton
Accompanist	Andrew Bedford
Set Design	David Hall
Scenic Artist	Chris Hall
Set Construction	John Hall & Richard Hampson
Set Painters	Tony Johnson, Steve Roe, Malcolm Parkinson, Marilyn Cooper, Robert and Kath Thurman, Philip Haley
Stage Manager	Richard Hampson
Lighting	LX Stage Services Ltd
Properties	Debbie and Rob Moores
Prompter	Liz Blount
Wardrobe	Lyndsey Hall
Costumes	Elizabeth Stagewear
Make Up	Stephanie Roe, Philip Haley, and Debbie Moores
Bookings Manager	Stephanie Roe
House Manager	Margaret Hanson
Programme Designer and Editor	Robert Thurman
Librarian	Tracey Hook
Musical Score	James Newby Music
Safety Officer	Stephanie Roe

Society Officials

President: Stephanie Roe, **Secretary:** Carol Parkinson.

Treasurer: Robert Thurman

Executive Committee: Fi Baker, Simon Bray, Lyndsey Hall,
Tracey Hook, Rita Jno-Baptiste, Debbie Moores, Rob Moores.

Honorary Life Members of the Society

Mr K Horner, Mrs C Parkinson, Mrs S L Roe, Mrs S Stopford,
Mr C R Thurman, Mr G Weston.

NODA Long Service Medal Holders

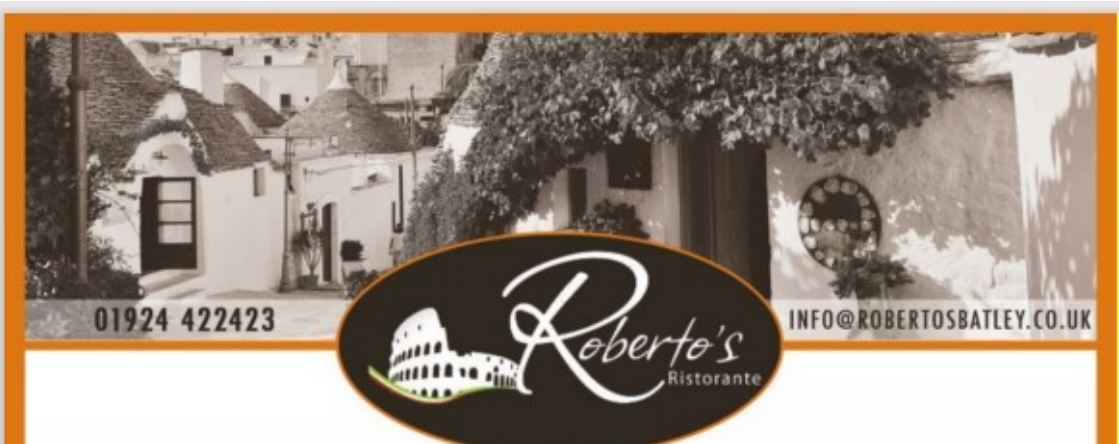
Mrs M Hanson, Mrs Tracey Hook, Mr K Horner, Mrs D Moores,
Mrs C Parkinson, Mr M G Parkinson, Mrs S Stopford, Mrs S L Roe,
Mr C J Sowerby, Mr C R Thurman, Mrs K Thurman, Mr I Townend.

Invited Guests

The Auditions Panel: Pamela Thorne, Sandra Chapman, Becky Gregson-Flynn.
The Mayor and Mayoress of Kirklees: Councillor Nigel and Mrs Judith Patrick.

Representatives from Leeds, Halifax, Wakefield, and Meltham
Gilbert & Sullivan Societies, Haworth West Lane Baptist Amateur Operatic
Society, Batley Amateur Thespian Society, Carlinghow Theatre Company.

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