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Presents

THE SORCERER



Souvenir Programme

21st - 26th April 2008
Dewsbury Little Theatre



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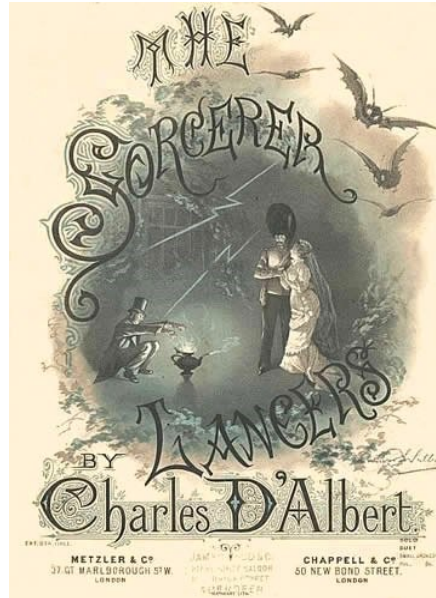
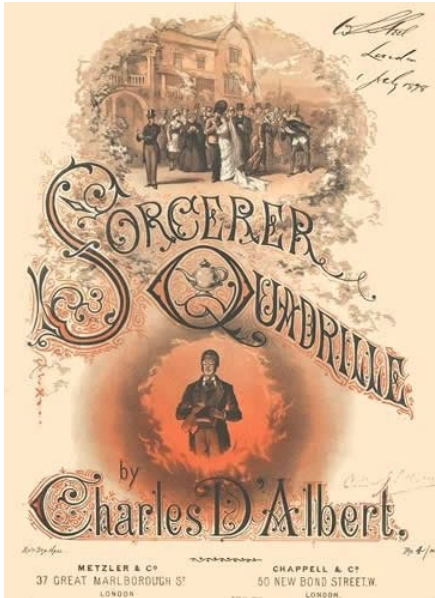
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Accompanist
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Musical Score

Graham Weston
David Hall
Garth Swift
Keith Horner
Keith Horner
John Trout
Aileen Middleton
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Margaret Hanson
Penny McGoverin
Robert Thurman
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Batley Gilbert & Sullivan

THE SORCERER

Dewsbury Little Theatre

21st - 26th April 2008

A message from the President



Once again, I am delighted to welcome you to our production. I am also thrilled to welcome several new members to our society this year and hope this show will be the first of many for them.

I am sure you will agree that we have an excellent set for the production thanks to Keith Horner, who may not be treading the boards any more, but is still a great asset to the society. Thanks also to over 20 members who helped with set construction. It certainly is an honour for me to be the president of such a friendly and committed society.

If you would like to join us as an acting or behind the scenes member please let us know—you would be very welcome. Contact details can be found further on in

Officials of the Society

President: Sally Roberts

Vice Presidents: Margaret Hanson & Stephanie Roe

Secretary: Lyndsey Hall Treasurer: Robert Thurman

Publicity Officer: Penny McGoverin

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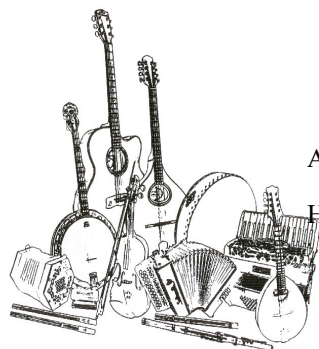
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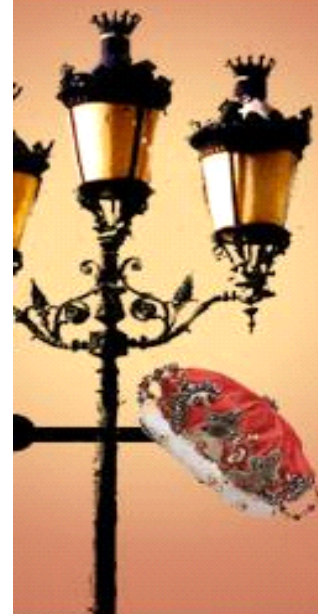


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Aline	Carol Parkinson
John Wellington Wells	Stanley Acerington
The Blacksmith	Ben Hashbaz
Villagers	Deirdre & Lisa O'Shea
Villagers	Peter & Marie Sugden
Lady Sangazur	In loving memory of Rene Kitson
Constance	Helen Fox
Sir Marmaduke Pointdextre	Amadeus Mirrk

Care to join us?

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

For further details contact our President:

Sally Roberts, 37 Bennett Lane, Dewsbury WF12 7DX
Tel: 01924 452023

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

Mr J B Alekroyd, Mr & Mrs G Asquith, Mr A Brook, Mrs H Browell,
Mrs S Firth, St Andrew's Church, Prof M A & Dr J B Green,
Mr & Mrs G M Harrap, Dr T M Kemp, Mrs J Lees, St Saviour's Church.
Mr & Mrs J D Magrath, Mr & Mrs M Powell,
Mr & Mrs P A Rogers, Mr J Walker

Thanks also to:

St John's Ambulance, Millennium Players for scenery storage,
Mrs Elsie Wise and Sowerby Brothers Cycles for the loan
of Dr Daly's bicycle.
Carlinghow Theatre Company for rehearsal facilities
Simprint printers for programme printing

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President's Night—Invited Guests

Auditions Panel—Mrs Sandra Chapman and Guest
Auditions Panel—Mr David Croft
Auditions Panel—Mrs Barbara Ryan and Mr Terry Ryan
Batley Amateur Thespian Society—Mrs Margaret Sheard and Guest
Carlinghow Theatre Company—Mr Nigel Dixon and Guest
Representatives from Leeds Gilbert & Sullivan Society
Dewsbury Collegians—Mrs Jean Jackson & Guest
Halifax Gilbert & Sullivan Society—Mr & Mrs Trevor Roberts
Harrogate Gilbert & Sullivan Society—Mr Mike Bratley and Guest
NODA Representative—Mr Noel Rigg and Guest
Wakefield Gilbert & Sullivan Society—Mr & Mrs R Briggs

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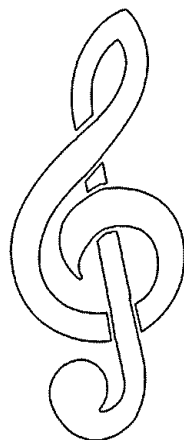
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Aline Sangazure - Carol Parkinson

Carol is a familiar figure to audiences of Batley Gilbert & Sullivan Society. She joined the Society as a chorus member in 1984 but quickly started taking on principal roles. She has played lead soprano parts in all the Savoy Operas (with the exception of "Utopia Limited" and "The Grand Duke"), many of them more than once. Carol has also performed with Huddersfield, Meltham and Wakefield Gilbert & Sullivan Societies, Dewsbury Arts Group and as a guest soloist with Mirfield Choral Society and the Dewsbury & Mirfield Methodist Churches' Circuit Choir.



Lady Sangazure - Stephanie Roe

Stephanie is the 'old lady' of the Society, being the longest serving member on the stage—but not the oldest! She started very young. She has now been in many of the shows several times around and taken more principal roles over the years, her favourites being 'Mabel' in 'Pirates of Penzance', 'Mad Margaret' in 'Ruddigore', 'Yum-Yum' and 'Katisha' in 'The Mikado' and 'Tessa' and 'The Duchess' in 'The Gondoliers'. She is also a member of Carlinghow Theatre Company



Constance - Helen Fox

Born in Batley, Helen moved to Essex when she was 6 months, returning to Yorkshire in 2004. She has been involved with G&S since she was five and at the age of 17 joined the South Anglia Savoy Players, winning Best Comedienne as Leila in Iolanthe at the Waterford International Festival of Light Opera and Best Supporting Actress for Kate in Pirate of Penzance at the Buxton G&S Festival. She is proud of her roots and is very much enjoying being a member of our society.





Dr Daly - Robert Thurman

Since joining the Society in 1976, Robert has played a variety of roles, Dr Daly being a particular favourite. He has also performed with Meltham and Halifax Gilbert & Sullivan Societies, winning an award from the National Operatic and Dramatic Society for his performance as Pooh-Bah in the Mikado in 2005. Other performances include Tevye in 'Fiddler on The Roof' with Heckmondwike Players in 2003.

The Notary—Alan Evans

Alan decided to take up singing as a hobby on retirement. He joined the society in 2006. This is his second G & S production having been in the chorus last year. He is married to Audrey and they have four adult sons, six grandsons and one granddaughter. Other hobbies include writing poetry. In retirement he has spent time lecturing in Uganda. He is a United Reformed Minister.



Mrs Partlet - Penny McGovern

This is Penny's fifth show with Batley Gilbert & Sullivan Society. She played Lady Angela in 'Patience' and Inez in 'The Gondoliers'. She also sings with Mirfield Choral Society and Halifax Gilbert & Sullivan Society for whom she has played the role of Baroness Von Krakenfeldt in 'The Grand Duke', the least performed of all the Savoy Operas, and Counsel for the Plaintiff in 'Trial By Jury'.



THE SORCERER

Sir Marmaduke Pointdextre (*an elderly baronet*)

Richard Buxton

Alexis (*of the Grenadier Guards, his Son*)

Steven Greenwood

Dr Daly (*Vicar of Ploverleigh*)

Rob-

ert Thurman

The Notary

Alan Evans

John Wellington Wells (*of J W Wells & Co., Family Sorcerers*)

Mal-

colm Parkinson

Lady Sanga-

Ancient Line-

Stephanie Roe

Aline, (*her*

trothed to Alex-

Carol Parkinson

Mrs Partlet (*a*

Penny

Constance (*her Daughter*)

Helen Fox

Hercules (*Mr Wells' Page*)

Peter Sugden



zure (*a Lady of age*)

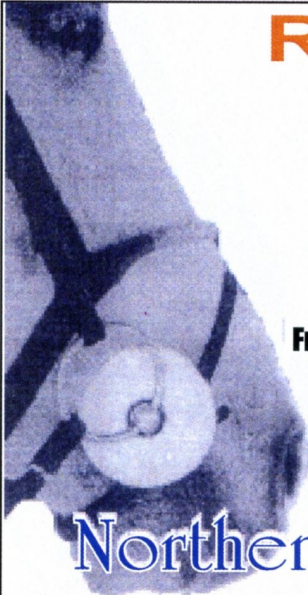
Daughter be-
is)

Pew Opener)

McGovern

Chorus of Villagers—Sopranos, Contraltos, Tenors, Baritone/Bass

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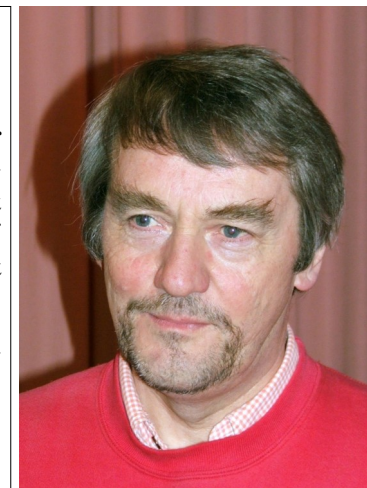
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**Alexis Pointdextre
Steven Greenwood**

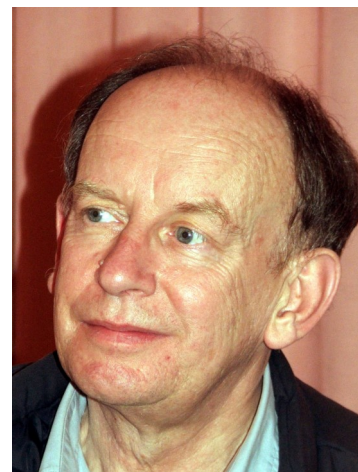
Steven is well known in the local amateur G & S circuit, having played all the leading tenor roles. This is the fifth time he has played the part of Alexis. He has also produced most of the Savoy operas and is not afraid to deviate from the traditional style.

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.



**Sir Marmaduke Pointdextre
Richard Buxton**

Richard began performing Gilbert and Sullivan with a number of middle-aged juvenile leads in Halifax and Huddersfield. He then graduated to playing late middle-aged juvenile leads before at last being allowed to act his age by a perceptive director. He relaxes after G & S by playing an assortment of psychopaths, megalomaniacs and dysfunctional husbands in Dewsbury Arts Group musicals. As Treasurer of Halifax G & S he is delighted in Batley not to be desperately counting the audience every night.



**John Wellington Wells
Malcolm Parkinson**

Malcolm made his first appearance on stage as one of the children in 'The King and I' with Dewsbury Collegians. Since then he has developed his reputation within local G & S circles as a patter man but is equally at home in straight acting rolls, music hall and other musicals and appears regularly with Dewsbury Arts Group.



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Our Production Team

Musical Director - David Hall



David returns as Musical Director, having previously taken the baton for Princess Ida in 2004.

No stranger to local audiences, David has also been Musical Director for Carlinghow Theatre Company and Batley Amateur Thespians, and has appeared in many shows. He also directs Mirfield Choral Society and is Organist & Choirmaster at Longcauseway Church, Dewsbury.

His performances to date include oratorio and concert work, and Gilbert & Sullivan roles includ-

Producer/Director - Graham Weston

Graham's involvement in the theatre began at an early age and he first performed with the Barnsley Junior Operatic Society.

Specialising in comic leads, he has appeared in over sixty musicals including 'Oklahoma'. 'Die Fledermaus', 'Me and My Girl' and more recently appeared in pantomime.

Graham's love of Gilbert & Sullivan has led him to play patter parts in theatres from Bridlington to Buxton. He won 'Best Supporting Actor' at the Buxton G & S Festival for his portrayal of 'Ko-Ko' in 'The Mikado'

Graham has performed with or directed several



Accompanist - Garth Swift

A well-known local accompanist, Garth has been with us for several years, having formerly been associated with Batley Amateur Thespian Society. He is resident organist on Sunday Lunchtime at the Irish National Club in Batley.

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The Sorcerer - Musical Numbers

Overture

Act I

1. Chorus: Ring
Forth Ye Bells
2. Recit: (Mrs Partlet and Constance) Constance,
My Daughter
3. Aria: (Constance) When
He is Here
4. Recit: (Dr Daly) The Air
is Charged
5. Ballad: (Dr Daly) Time was, when Love and I
were well acquainted
6. Recit and Minuet: (Sir Marmaduke, Alexis and Dr Daly)
7. Chorus of Girls: With Heart and
with Voice
8. Recit:(Aline)
My Kindly Friends
9. Aria: (Aline) Happy
Young Heart
10. Recit: Lady Sangazure My Child I Join in
these Congratulations
11. Chorus of Men: With Heat and with
Voice
12. Duet: (Lady Sangazure and Sir Marmaduke)
Welcome Joy
13. Ensemble: (Aline, Alexis, Lawyer and Chorus)
All is Prepared
14. Ballad: (Alexis)
For Love Alone
15. Song: (Mr Wells) My Name is John
Wellington Wells
16. Incantation: (Aline, Alexis, Mr Wells and Chorus) Sprites of
Earth and Air
17. Finale: Tutti Now

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Baker, Lisa O'Shea, Debbie Stringer, Marie Sugden, Lyndsey Hall
Front row: Kath Thurman, Sally Roberts, Antonia McGovern, Tracey Hook,
Margaret Hanson, Rita Ino-Baptiste

*This page kindly sponsored by Keith Horner with thanks to the construc-
tion team*

ACT I

It is mid-day and the villagers of Ploverleigh are assembled in front of the Elizabethan Mansion of Sir Marmaduke Pointdextre, voicing their joy at the betrothal of Sir Marmaduke's heir Alexis to Aline, the only child of an equally aristocratic neighbour, the Lady Sangazure. There is one present, however, who does not share in the general joy. Constance, the daughter of Mrs. Partlet, is downcast and confesses to her mother that she loves (vainly, it seems) the Vicar, Dr. Daly. On his appearance they withdraw and Dr. Daly sings the notable ballad, "Time was when Love and I were well acquainted," in which he laments the days now gone when, as a pale young curate, he had the adoration of the maidens of his flock. Mrs. Partlet, anxious to help Constance, comes forward and leads the conversation to the subject of marriage, but it is obvious from his replies that he looks on himself as a confirmed bachelor, and Constance is led away sobbing by her mother.

The Vicar now turns to welcome Sir Marmaduke and Alexis in weighty language, and with a touch of allegory that pleases Sir Marmaduke, who is a great admirer of the school of stately compliment, and a stickler for "blue blood." He claims that his own family is directly descended from Helen of Troy, and is all for a marriage of pedigree, regarding love as a comparatively unimportant accessory.

Aline makes her appearance and is greeted by the village girls. She acknowledges their good wishes, and her mother, Lady Sangazure, adds her congratulations. The men now welcome Alexis and the lovers greet each other with ecstasy. Then follows a stately duet ("Welcome joy, adieu to sadness") between Sir Marmaduke and Lady Sangazure, who were lovers in their young days. The stately gavotte measure is punctuated by their dreams of what might have been.

A notary has now arrived; all is prepared for signing the marriage contract. This done, Alexis and Aline are left together. Alexis does not agree with the views of his father, and, believing that men and women should be coupled in matrimony without distinction of rank, has done some propaganda on the subject. So far, however, his ideas have only been welcomed by the humbler classes. His own happiness seemingly assured, he reveals his scheme for making the whole village happy. He has engaged John Wellington Wells, a Sorcerer, to administer secretly a love-philtre to all the others, which will first send them to sleep, and on their awaking cause them to fall madly in love with the first person of the opposite sex they may see who has also drunk the potion. It has no effect on those already married.

Mr. Wells is introduced in the well-known patter song, and then details are discussed. It is decided that the philtre shall be placed in a large teapot which will be used for the "banquet" to follow. Mr. Wells then proceeds to his horrific Incantation, and after the fiends have disappeared, the villagers return, make merry, and each drinks of the enchanted tea. The act closes as, after struggling vainly against the charm, all present save Alexis, Aline and the Sorcerer fall insensible.

ACT II

It is midnight, and the villagers are still lying where they have fallen. Mr. Wells, with a great sense of fitness, has had the more exalted members taken home and put to bed "respectably." As the villagers wake, each falls in love with the first person of the opposite sex visible, Constance and the Notary making one couple.

Alexis is so pleased with his success that he urges Aline to join with him in drinking the philtre, in order that nothing may be left to chance. She refuses, and they quarrel. The remaining characters begin to arrive: first Dr. Daly, the worthy Vicar, who is puzzled because, in a village hitherto rather slow in the matter of marriage, he has suddenly had a request for hasty weddings from everyone -- even Sir Marmaduke. Alexis is none too pleased when he finds that the philtre has led the Baronet to fix on Mrs. Partlet, the Pew Opener. Still, he must live up to his opinions, and there is a congratulatory quintet from those concerned.

Mr. Wells, having caused the mischief, falls a victim to his own spell, for Lady Sangazure, entering, sees him and at once adores him. He, on the other hand, not having drunk the philtre, does not reciprocate, and in an amusing duet endeavours to dissuade her. Without success, however, for she threatens to bury her woe in her family vault.

Aline, having pondered the matter, has decided to fall in with her lover's wish and drinks the philtre. Immediately afterwards, she catches sight of Dr. Daly and of course falls in love with him. He is delighted at his good fortune, but Alexis, coming in full of remorse, is astounded to find his embraces repulsed. Explanations ensue, and the Vicar obligingly offers to quit the country and bury his sorrow "in the congenial gloom of a Colonial Bishopric."

This is not enough, for Aline is still under the influence of the philtre, and no longer loves Alexis. They appeal to Mr. Wells, who reveals that there is one way only in which the spell can be revoked. Either he or Alexis must sacrifice himself to Ahrimanes. Argument ensues and the issue is put to popular vote. John Wellington Wells loses and disappears into the earth to the sound of a gong.

All quit their temporary partners to rejoin their old lovers, and Sir Marmaduke, claiming Lady Sangazure, invites them all to another feast in his mansion.

'My name is John Wellington Wells'

