

Batley Gilbert & Sullivan Society

ne Sorcerer

Batley Town Hall

Wed 18 - Sat 21 April 2018



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Acknowledgements

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With thanks to our Orchestra, front of house staff and all who have helped with this production

Society Officials

President: Stephanie Roe, **Secretary:** Carol Parkinson. **Treasurer:** Robert Thurman **Executive Committee:** Ali Burton, Marilyn Cooper, Tracey Hook, Debbie Moores, Rob Moores, Tanya Parsons, Catherine Roberts, Rita Jno-Baptiste, Fi Baker

Honorary Life Members of the Society

Mrs M Harrop, Mr K Horner, Mrs S L Roe, Mrs S Stopford, Mr C R Thurman, Mr G Weston

NODA Long Service Medal Holders

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: Ian Abbott, Sandra Hosker, Ian Townend. The Mayor of Kirklees and her consort.:Cllr Christine Iredale and Mr Robert Iredale. Representatives from Leeds, Halifax, Harrogate, Wakefield, Meltham and Haworth Gilbert & Sullivan Societies, Batley Amateur Thespian Society, Carlinghow Theatre Company, Dewsbury Arts Group and Dewsbury Collegians, Heckmondwike Players Mr Noel Rigg & Mrs Dorothy Rigg (NODA), Mr Malcolm Haigh Do you have slides that you are no longer able to view? Would you like to add your old photographs to your collection? Why not have them digitised?

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Welcome

When I joined the Society in 1967, I never for one moment imagined I would still be performing with them fifty years later, having missed only one show due to knee surgery.

The Society is fast approaching its 70th Anniversary. Many similar societies have fallen by the wayside and it is fair to say it becomes harder every year to promote the wonderful works of Gilbert & Sullivan to a younger generation who have never had the opportunity to experience music of this type. It's such a shame – they don't know what they're missing!

Although long-standing aficionados and regular supporters may not be getting any younger, we have attracted one young man to our ranks this year. Our Musical Director, Sean Gleeson, is relatively new to conducting the works of Gilbert & Sullivan. He is involved with Leeds Youth Opera as Conducting Intern but is also an accomplished cornetist, so he is no stranger to bands or orchestras. Further details of his career can be found under his biography. We were very fortunate that he was able to join us when our former Musical Director, Nicholas Whitaker, who had laid such firm musical foundations, was unable to continue in this role.

We are delighted to welcome back Helen Fox for her second year as Producer/Director and we are grateful to Richard Buxton, Ann Likeman and Martin Whitaker for joining us to play various principal parts.

A great deal of hard work goes into putting on an annual show such as this. Our members get so much enjoyment from working together and have formed long-standing friendships over the years. All this effort would not be worthwhile, however, without your support as it would be no fun playing to an empty hall!

Thank you all – because without your support there would be no Batley Gilbert & Sullivan Society.

Stephanie Roe - President

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



Affiliated to the National Operatic and Dramatic Association

The Sorcerer - Synopsis of the Plot - Act I

The inhabitants of the little village of Ploverleigh are preparing to celebrate the betrothal of Alexis, son of Sir Marmaduke Pointdextre, to Aline, daughter of Lady Annabella Sangazure. Between them, Alexis and Aline represent the two most important families in the neighbourhood, and the ceremony is an occasion of great joy in the village. Only Constance, daughter of Mrs Partlet (a pew opener), cannot join in the general rejoicing because she is in love with Dr Daly, the local vicar, a man who seems completely indifferent to her.

Dr Daly himself arrives on the scene and reminisces about the days of his youth when he was much admired by the young ladies of his flock. Mrs Partlet engages him in conversation, hoping to steer his attention towards her daughter, but Dr Daly fails to take the bait and seems resigned to ending his days as a lonely old bachelor.

Mrs Partlet and Constance leave, and Dr Daly is joined by Sir Marmaduke and Alexis. Dr Daly congratulates Alexis in a parody of the excessively formal language of the late eighteenth century, then departs.

Sir Marmaduke is highly satisfied with the prospect of a union between the houses of Pointdextre and Sangazure, but less happy with the treacly, over-sentimental way that Alexis expresses his love for Aline. This was not the way refined people used to behave in his young day: thirty years ago he had been in love with Lady Sangazure and she with him, but they had both been too reserved to do anything about it.

The maidens of the village arrive to welcome Aline, who sings of her joy at her forthcoming betrothal. Lady Sangazure congratulates her but is rather sorry for herself as she thinks about the lost opportunities of the past.

The men of the village bring on Alexis, and the young couple greet each other passionately. Meanwhile, Sir Marmaduke and Lady Sangazure sing a duet which reveals the conflict between their love for each other and their inbred desire to act with decorum and restraint.

The lawyer now arrives, and Alexis and Aline sign the marriage contract. Left alone together, Alexis tells Aline that he has been working on a scheme to promote marriage between people of all classes as the cure for every ill. He has lectured on the subject to working men and they have been receptive to the idea of marrying wealthy ladies of rank. The aristocracy, however, have proved less enthusiastic about marrying into the lower classes. To progress his scheme, Alexis has engaged the services of J.W. Wells & Co., an old established firm of Family Sorcerers, to supply and distribute a love philtre or potion amongst the villagers. After some confusion regarding the difference between a philtre and a filter, Aline expresses alarm at the whole idea, but Alexis makes light of her fears.



Batley Gilbert & Sullivan Society Presents THE SORCERER



Souvenir Programme 21st - 26th April 2008 Dewsburg Little Theatre



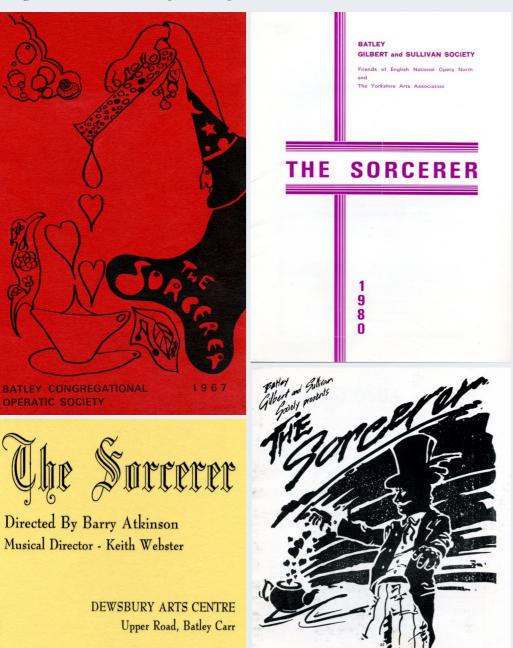
S Sponsored by Whitfield Hallam Goodall Solicitors A cast photograph and programme from our last production of *The Sorcerer* 2008in .

In 1967, our first production of The *Sorcerer* took place at Hanover Street Congregational Church in Batley, now demolished. By 1980, the Society had moved to Cross Bank Church, where performances were given in the schoolroom. The last production in 2008 was at the Dewsbury Arts Centre (later renamed Dewsbury Little Theatre) in Batley Carr, which was the Society's home from 1988 until it was closed by Kirklees Council in 2011. As no suitable alternative theatre venues are available in North Kirklees, all our performances are now staged here in the Town Hall.

This page has been kindly sponsored by The Pointdextre Estate

From our archives

Programmes covers from previous productions in 1967, 1980, 1988 and 1997.



DEWSBURY ARTS CENTRE

Upper Road, Batley Carr.

Mon. 25th April - Sat. 30th April

April 21 to 26, 1997 at 7.30 pm Mr Wells arrives and introduces himself. He brags to Alexis about the potency of the love potion but assures Aline that it works on strictly moral principles and has no effect on married people. A deal is struck, and Wells performs a spell while adding the potion to a large tea-pot. The villagers return, drink the doctored tea and are quickly rendered unconscious while Wells, Alexis and Aline look on.

Act II

It is now midnight, and Wells, Alexis and Aline arrive to find the villagers still asleep. A few people are missing: Wells has had those of a higher social status taken home to bed. The sleepers begin to stir, and the trio decide to withdraw and allow the spell to do its work.

The villagers awake, and immediately fall in love with each other. A joyful dance follows, after which Constance appears, leading the lawyer, with whom she is now reluctantly infatuated.

Eventually the villagers depart, leaving Alexis and Aline alone on stage. Alexis is delighted with the outcome of the spell, but he now wants to take the love potion himself and Aline to do likewise. Aline feels this is unnecessary as they are already in love, and Alexis is extremely offended by her refusal. The argument is interrupted by the arrival of Dr Daly, who is slightly puzzled by the number of weddings he is being asked to perform. They are joined by Sir Marmaduke and Mrs Partlet, which is not the pairing Alexis had in mind, and after a quintet praising the virtues of matrimony, the whole party leaves the stage.

Wells arrives, full of remorse. Lady Sangazure appears, and, of course, falls madly in love with him, a love Wells cannot return because he has not drunk the potion himself. After a duet in which Lady Sangazure tries to win his affection, Wells goes off, pursued by the lovelorn lady.

Now Aline appears. She has decided to take the love potion in accordance with Alexis's wishes. She does so and falls asleep. While Aline is unconscious, Dr Daly arrives and sings of his disappointment that every maiden to whom he has proposed marriage has turned out to be already engaged to someone else. However, Aline awakens and the two fall madly in love. When Alexis arrives, his delight that Aline has drunk the potion turn to anger that she now rejects him in favour of Dr Daly. He summons everyone to the stage and appeals to Wells to sort out the mess. Wells reveals that the only way to reverse the spell is for either Alexis or himself to die as a sacrifice to the devil. Wells is not keen to nominate himself, and Aline objects to the idea of it being Alexis who has to die.

In the end, Alexis appeals to the villagers to make the decision. Which shall it be – Alexis or Wells? All will be revealed at the end of the show!

Carol Parkinson

This page has been kindly sponsored by Helen Fox

Previous Productions

This is the Society's sixth production of The Sorcerer and our seventieth year of producing the Savoy Operas. For those interested in statistics, here is a list of all the shows we have presented since 1949 - all thirteen of Gilbert & Sullivan's collaborations.

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



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The Ladies and Gentlemen of Ploverleigh







Marilyn Cooper





Jennifer Day



Tracey Hook



Debbie Moores

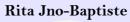


Catherine Roberts



Kath Thurman







Deirdre O'Shea



Steve Roe













Mrs Partlet - Stephanie Roe

The Sorcerer is not blessed with female roles, but Stephanie has now played three of the four. Mrs Partlet is a role that lends itself to a touch of character acting. She played Aline in 1988 and Lady Sangazure twice, and in a Club Night with Halifax G & S Society. Mrs Partlet's opening recitative is regarded as one of the finest that Sullivan wrote. Stephanie will appear in *The Music Man* with Dewsbury Arts Group, which will be a refreshing change, and take part in the Batley's concert for St Mary's Church Flower Festival in Birkenshaw.

Constance - Carol Parkinson

Carol joined Batley Gilbert & Sullivan Society in 1984 and did her first show as a chorus member in 1985. Studying with local teachers including John Highcock, Sheila Gambrill and Steven Mellor, she quickly graduated to small parts then leading roles. She has worked with other Gilbert & Sullivan societies and choirs in the area and is also a member of Dewsbury Arts Group, where she is looking forward to appearing in their next musical, *The Music Man*, in June this year.



Lady Sangazure - Ann Likeman

Ann is delighted to join the cast at Batley. She has performed with Chester and Longwood Operatic Societies, Mrs Lovett in Sweeney Todd being a highlight, appealing to her macabre sense of humour. Playing Golde in Fiddler on the Roof holds fond memories of exploring the resilience of persecuted people. Other favourites include The Merry Widow, Carousel and La Vie Parisienne. Roles in The Mikado and a concert version of The Yeomen of the Guard confirmed her love of the Savoy Operas. With Huddersfield and most recently, Meltham G & S Society, Ann has enjoyed playing roles that seem to be growing older!



Characters from 'The Sorcerer'















Illustrated on Players Cigarette Cards issued in 1925 and 1927.

The Society is grateful for the support shown by its members and patrons over many years. We are also appreciative of the kind donations of prizes for our Christmas Draw made this year by Roberto's Restaurant in the Market Place, Batley, Hannah's Tearooms in The Mill Village and Fox's Biscuits.

This page has been kindly sponsored by Martin Whitaker

Helen Fox - Director

Helen has been involved with the Savoy Operas for as long as she can remember. Beginning in Essex with South Anglia Savoy Players at the tender age of six she can easily say it is in her blood. She has been performing Gilbert & Sullivan since she was 15, when she played a monk in the Finale Act 1 of *The Yeomen of the Guard.* As part of South Anglia she won Best Supporting Actress at the Gilbert & Sullivan Festival in Buxton playing Kate in *Pirates of Penzance* and Best Comedienne at the Waterford International Festival as Leila in *Iolanthe.* Since moving to Yorkshire in 2004 she has performed with Batley



Gilbert & Sullivan Society, playing a number of parts, her favourite being Mabel in *Pirates*. She appeared as Constance in Batley's production of *The Sorcerer* in 2008. Helen is no beginner to directing, having directed the Youth Section of Dewsbury Arts Group for seven years, a One Act Play written by our very own Carol Parkinson and, more recently her first full length play. *The Sorcerer* is Helen's second production for Batley.

Our production in 2019 will be..



The Notary

Martin Whitaker

This is Martin's first show at Batley but he first trod the boards in the wilder reaches of the Calder Valley with Midgehole Sod Throwers and Heptonstall Boulder Rollers. Searching for civilization, he moved eastward, joining Wakefield G & S in 1994. Since then he has performed most of the principal bass/baritone roles there and occasionally with Bingley and Halifax Societies. He describes himself as an 'adequate accompanist' and is also Musical Director of the Wakefield Society



Aline Anna Trent

Anna graduated from university with a BMus (Hons) and an MA in performance. She has frequently sung in concerts up and down the country. Her love of G & S began at the age of sixteen and she has performed the majority of the lead soprano roles from twelve of the operettas for societies throughout West Yorkshire. She first performed with Batley G & S Society in 2009. *The Sorcerer* is her ninth consecutive show with them.



John Wellington Wells - Malcolm Parkinson

He has practiced thespianism in all its branches in a choice assortment of one act farces, divine comedies, dramas and musicals. He was cast in Assassins (Dewsbury Arts Group 2017) as a low figure and has a programme from his first stage appearance in *The King & I* in 1968 at 3/6d that he can guarantee. He has been chased and has a hairy chest that is highly recommended. His league tables, foretelling the rise of Accrington Stanley are much enquired for. His comic verse is considered infallible. He has some very superior monologues too, but he has only told one since Christmas. But His singing of tongue twisting verses, especially on Saturday matinees is tremendous. He can't turn 'em out fast enough.





Sir Marmaduke Pointdextre

Richard Buxton

Richard first sang G & S in his mid-thirties, playing aging juvenile leads before a perceptive director let him act his age. He has directed eight shows at Halifax G & S Society and is their Musical Director. He has also played a variety of psychopaths and dysfunctional husbands in Sondheim musicals for Dewsbury Arts Group. Batley G & S have called upon him from time to time when they were short of an Old Bald Bloke. The repeat performances are probably due to his cheap appearance rates.

Alexis Leon Waksberg

Leon hails from Nottingham and began singing at University in Bradford. He has played all the leading tenor and juvenile baritone roles for societies throughout West Yorkshire and at the International G & S Festival. He has also performed major roles in a variety of operas and musicals. He has been appearing at Batley since 2004. He recently composed an operatic adaptation of Shakespeare's *The Winter's Tale*.





Dr Daly Robert Thurman

Robert has the rare distinction of having performed a variety of principal roles in all thirteen of the Savoy Operas since joining the Society as a mere youth in 1976. He played the lead role of Tevye in *Fiddler on the Roof* and Colonel Pickering in *My Fair Lady* with Heckmondwike Players. In 2005 he won a NODA award for his portrayal of Pooh Bah in Halifax G & S Society's production of *The Mikado*, Dr Daly is a an old friend, a role he has played on three previous occasions.

Sean Gleeson - Musical Director

After studying conducting and trumpet at Leeds College of Music, Sean has had a prolific start to his career. Graduating in July 2017, he is currently the Conducting Intern at Leeds Youth Opera.

Originally from Oldham, Sean developed a passion for conducting at sixth form college, where he founded and conducted the Crompton House School Swing Band. The group gave regular concerts at the school, as well as at external charity concerts. He was also co-conductor and principal cornet of the Crompton House School Brass Band, which won an award at the 2013 National Music For Youth Contest, held at Birmingham Symphony Hall. The award was subsequently presented at the Royal Albert Hall in London.



After moving to Leeds to attend university, Sean pursued his interest in conducting, taking lessons with Jon Malaxetxebarria with further instruction from Tom Newall. In his final year, he became conductor of the Leeds College of Music Student Union Camerata, performing at several locations in Leeds: 'The Venue', the College of Music, the Cathedral, the Minster and St. John the Evangelist Church. He also conducted three concerts on a successful tour to Amsterdam in the summer of 2017.

As a Guest Conductor, Sean has worked with the Alwoodley Sinfonia, the Leeds College of Music Student Union Concert Band, and has returned to the Leeds College of Music Student Union Camerata.

Highlights of the 2017-18 season include Puccini's *La Boheme* with Leeds Youth Opera and music to a new documentary with a scratch orchestra based in Leeds.



Dramatis Personæ

Richard Buxton

Leon Waksberg Robert Thurman

Ann Likeman

Stephanie Roe Carol Parkinson

Deirdre O'Shea

Anna Trent

Martin Whitaker

Sir Marmaduke Pointdextre, an Elderly Baronet Alexis, of the Grenadier Guards, his Son Dr Daly, Vicar of Ploverleigh Notary John Wellington Wells, Malcom Parkinson of J. W. Wells & Co., Family Sorcerers Lady Sangazure, a Lady of Ancient Lineage Aline, her Daughter, betrothed to Alexis Mrs Partlet, a Pew Opener Constance, her Daughter Athena, Mr Wells' assistant

Chorus of Villagers

Simon Bray, Helen Carbutt, Marilyn Cooper, Clive Daniel, Jennifer Day, Tracey Hook, Rita Jno-Baptiste, Tony Johnson, Debbie Moores, Deirdre O'Shea, Tanya Parsons, Catherine Roberts, Steve Roe, Lee Stone, Kath Thurman.

ACT I – Grounds of Sir Marmaduke's Mansion, Mid-day

(Twelve hours are supposed to elapse between Acts I and II) ACT II – Grounds of Sir Marmaduke's Mansion, Midnight

Costume Sponsorships

Villagers of Ploverleigh - Ali Burton, Marilyn Cooper, Tony Johnson, Rita Jno-Baptiste and Jennifer Day. Mrs Partlet and Steve Roe's costume - in loving memory of Rene and Geoff Kitson Constance - Stanley Accrington, John Wellington Wells - Sir Hugh Jarse, Sir Marmaduke Pointdextre - Forty-nine Shilling Tailors

This page has been kindly sponsored by Tanya Parsons

Musical Numbers

ACT I

Overture

1. 'Ring forth ye bells'	Double Chorus	
2. 'Constance, my daughter, why this strange depression?' Mrs. Partlet & Constance		
2a. 'When he is here'	Constance	
3. 'The air is charged with amatory numbers'	Dr Daly	
3a. 'Time was when Love and I were well acqua	inted' Dr Daly	
4. 'Sir Marmaduke, my dear young friend Alexi	s'	
	Sir Marmaduke, Dr Daly & Alexis	
4a. 'Dance'		
5. 'With heart and with voice'	Chorus of Girls	
6. 'My kindly friends'	Aline	
6a. 'Happy young heart'	Aline	
7. 'My child, I join in these congratulations'	Lady Sangazure	
8. 'With heart and with voice'	Chorus of Men	
9. 'Welcome, joy!'	Lady Sangazure & Sir Marmaduke	
10. 'All is prepared'	Aline, Alexis, Notary & Chorus	
10a. 'With heart and with voice'	Double Chorus	
11. 'Love feeds on many kinds of food'	Alexis	
12. 'My name is John Wellington Wells'	Mr. Wells	
13. 'Sprites of earth and air'	Aline, Alexis, Mr. Wells & Chorus	
14. Act I Finale	Ensemble	

ACT II

15. 'Tis twelve, I think' and 'Why, where be Oi?... If you'll marry me'

1	Aline, Alexis, Mr. Wells & Chorus
16. 'Dear friends, take pity on my lot' Constance	ce, Notary, Aline, Alexis & Chorus
17. 'Thou hast the pow'r thy vaunted love'	Alexis
18. 'I rejoice that it's decided' Aline, Mrs. Partlet, A	Alexis, Dr Daly & Sir Marmaduke
19. 'Oh, I have wrought much evil with my spells'	Lady Sangazure & Mr. Wells
20. 'Alexis! Doubt me not, my loved one'	Aline
21. 'Oh, my voice is sad and low'	Dr Daly
22. 'Oh, joyous boon! oh, mad delight'	Aline, Alexis, Dr Daly & Chorus
23. 'Prepare for sad surprises'	Alexis
24. Act II Finale: 'Or he or I must die'	Ensemble