

Batley Gilbert & Sullivan Society

presents

Iolanthe

A woman in a gold and black dress with white wings, floating in front of a background of the Houses of Parliament and Big Ben in London at night. The woman is positioned in the center, with her arms outstretched and legs crossed. The background shows the illuminated buildings of the Houses of Parliament and Big Ben, with a bridge and water in the foreground.

Batley Town Hall

Wednesday 26th - Saturday 29th April 2023

Souvenir Programme



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A message from the President

As the Coronation of King Charles III approaches, our society would like to take the opportunity to dedicate this production to him. Although I admit to not being very keen on having the National Anthem played at amateur performances these days, in light of the passing of the late wonderful Queen Elizabeth II, I feel it is most appropriate to mark the occasion and to welcome her son into his new role and to pledge our loyalty and support for a long and glorious reign. This will be endorsed as Earl Mountbatten sings "When Britain really ruled the Waves".

I don't think we could have chosen a more appropriate show for this year as Gilbert poked fun at the goings-on in Parliament and what happens when women interfere in politics!

We are delighted to welcome several new members to our family. Two of our existing members have stepped out from the chorus to take their first principal roles with the society – Faith Church as Iolanthe and Simon Bray as Private Willis. Joining our soprano section this year are Philippa Johnstone, Amanda Storey and Heather Watson (taking the role of Phyllis) while Melanie Stephen and returning member Tanya Parsons offer welcome support in the contralto section. We also welcome Louie Fung (Tenor) and Stephen Mohun (Baritone). We hope they have all enjoyed their first show with Batley and will return next year to take part in *Yeomen of the Guard*.

Thankfully we have survived COVID but this has had an impact on so many aspects of our lives, and, in particular, on our audiences. We really enjoy singing together and rehearsing to put the finishing touches to our show, but without you, our loyal supporters, we could not survive as costs increase year on year. Thank you coming along to show your appreciation, because without an audience to enjoy the fruits of our labours, we would be saying, like Phyllis, "it's really not worth while"!

I hope you enjoy the performance as "away we go to Fairyland"!

Stephanie Roe

The programme for our production
has been very kindly sponsored by

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The Society offers its heartfelt thanks for the support

received from the following:

Wednesday 26th April's performance

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Thursday 27th April's performance



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Friday 28th April's performance



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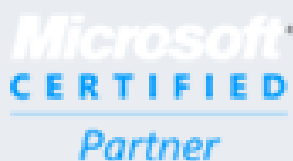
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Saturday 29th April's performance



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Iolanthe - The Plot

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 tradition, they must duel to the death. Both then renounce Phyllis in the name of friendship. Meanwhile, the Lord Chancellor has had a sleepless night, and eventually decides to marry Phyllis himself. Strephon confesses to Phyllis that he is half a fairy, and they decide to marry as soon as possible. They persuade Iolanthe to appeal to the Lord Chancellor on their behalf, and she does so, revealing that she is his wife. Thus, she again incurs the death penalty. Meanwhile, the other fairies have married the other peers, and so all should die. The Lord Chancellor suggests that by adding the word 'don't' to the fairy law, the fairies would not have to die. To save her life, the Queen marries Private Willis, all the mortals are transformed into fairies, and they all fly away to Fairyland, leaving the House of Lords to be filled according to intelligence not birth.

Producer - David Hall



David returns as Producer for our production of *Iolanthe*, after the success of *The Mikado* last year. He is no stranger to the top team, having being Musical Director for our productions in 2004, 2008 and 2012, and has been a member of this society since 1999.

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 G&S principal appearances include Ko-Ko & Fish-Tush (*The Mikado*), Captain Corcoran (*HMS Pinafore*), Richard Dauntless (*Ruddigore*) and Frederick (*The Pirates of Penzance*), as well as many other incidental roles such as “waiter”, “drunk”, “passer-by” and “oops”.

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.

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

Lord Chancellor - Ian Grange
Stephson - John Tattersall
Lord Tolloller - Steven Greenwood
Lord Mountararat - Edward Thornton
Private Willis - Gerald Tinson
Phyllis - Carol Parkinson
Iolanthe - Sandra Harker
Fairy Queen - Val Green
Leila - Kathryn Buxton

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 Philip Haley

Tel: 07549 001422

Iolanthe

Or The Peer and the Peri

DRAMATIS PERSONÆ

The Lord Chancellor	Malcolm Parkinson
Earl of Mountararat	David Parker
Earl Tolloller	Edwin Kirkwood
Private Willis (<i>of the Grenadier Guards</i>)	Simon Bray
Strephon (<i>an Arcadian Shepherd</i>)	Oliver McGreevy
Queen of the Fairies	Stephanie Roe
Iolanthe (<i>a Fairy, Strephon's Mother</i>)	Fay Church
Fairies:	
Celia	Carol Parkinson
Leila	Marilyn Cooper
Fleta	Debbie Moores
Phyllis (<i>an Arcadian Shepherdess and Ward of Chancery</i>)	Heather Watson

Chorus of Dukes, Marquises, Earls, Viscounts, Barons, and Fairies

The Marquess of Largesse - Simon Bray, **Lord Egree** - Louie Fung,
Count de Monay - Richard Grigg, **Earl Seaton** - Philip Haley,
Duke a l'Orange - David Hall, **Lord Knows-Watt** - Tony Johnson,
Lord Elpus - Steve Mohun, **Baron Hardup** - Robert Thurman

Fairy Cakes - Lyndsey Hall, **Fairy Bramblewheels** - Tracey Hook,
Fairy Nuff - Philippa Johnstone, **Fairy Bluebell** - Caroline Ledgard,
Fairy Flutterby - Tanya Parsons, **Fairy Conony** - Melanie Stephen,
Fairy Liquid - Amanda Storey.

ACT I - An Arcadian Landscape **ACT II** - The Palace Yard, Westminster

The time - between 1799 and 1882

Replica Weapons & Sound Effects:

Replica weapons are used occasionally during this performance but they are either made of wood or contain no firing mechanism so pose no threat to either cast or members of the public. Please be aware that sound effects are used to represent gunshot during Act One.

Musical Numbers

Overture

Act I

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",

"Henceforth Strephon, cast away" "With Strephon for your foe, no doubt /

Young Strephon is the kind of lout"

Act II

14. "When all night long a chap remains" *Private Willis*
15. "Strephon's a member of Parliament" *Chorus of Fairies and Peers*
16. "When Britain really ruled the waves" *Lord Mountararat and Chorus*
17. "In vain to us you plead"
Leila, Celia, Chorus of Fairies, Mountararat, Tolloller, and Chorus of Peers
18. "Oh, foolish fay" *Queen with Chorus of Fairies*
19. "Though p'r'aps I may incur your blame"
Phyllis, Lord Mountararat, Lord Tolloller, and Private Willis
20. "Love, unrequited, robs me of my rest", "When you're lying awake"
Lord Chancellor
21. "If you go in you're sure to win"
Lord Tolloller, Lord Mountararat and Lord Chancellor
22. "If we're weak enough to tarry" *Phyllis and Strephon*
23. "My lord, a suppliant at your feet" *Iolanthe*
24. "It may not be" *Lord Chancellor, Iolanthe and Chorus of Fairies*
25. Finale Act II "Soon as we may, off and away" *Ensemble*

The Lord Chancellor - Malcolm Parkinson



In 1983 the Society presented *Iolanthe* as its inaugural production at the Town Hall. The Lord Chancellor was also Malcolm's first principal role for the Society. A year later, he reprised the role for the English Imperial Players' Italian Season in Rome. The Wednesday evening performance clashed with Roma playing Liverpool in the European Cup final at the Stadio Olimpico. Just before Malcolm's last entrance, the Reds scored the winner thus enabling him to declare to the nine in the audience "Victory, victory, success has crowned our efforts and Liverpool have won the cup!"

The Earl Mountararat - David Parker

David first performed with the Society in 2008 when he was invited to play the role of Giuseppe in *The Gondoliers* and has appeared regularly since. He is well versed in the lore of Gilbert & Sullivan, and has performed most 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.



Lord Tolloller - Edwin Kirkwood



Edwin is very pleased to be taking the part of Lord Tolloller in *Iolanthe*, his third show with Batley Gilbert & Sullivan Society, a show he last performed in 1978 as part of the chorus.

He has been an active member of Morley Amateur Operatic Society for over 30 years, performing in both their musicals and pantomimes, as well as in shows with a number of other local societies. He also enjoys supporting backstage, singing in his church choir and round a Scout campfire.

In loving memory of Desmond and Dorothy Aveyard

Private Willis - Simon Bray

Since joining the Society in 2016, Simon (who was previously a member of Leeds Gilbert and Sullivan Society) has been happy to enjoy the limelight from the relative safety of upstage left. His previous stage successes have included Third Yeoman, Second Pirate, and Fourth villager on the right: theatrical triumphs which are still talked about today in the west end (of Leeds) albeit only by Simon. This will be the second time he has appeared in *Iolanthe*, a personal favourite of his and he is very much looking forward to taking the part of Private Willis.



Strephon - Oliver McGreevy



Whilst studying Economics at Newcastle University, Oliver found a passion for performing, and the world of Gilbert & Sullivan in particular. He became a member of the university's Gilbert and Sullivan society, and has been hooked ever since. After graduating Oliver joined Batley Gilbert & Sullivan Society, and, more recently, Dewsbury Arts Group. So far, Oliver has played exciting principal roles in *Utopia Limited*, *Peter Pan*, *Up 'n' Under II* and *The Ghost Train*, amongst others. When not rehearsing for *Iolanthe*, he currently works as a Sixth Form Mentor, and keeps himself busy with singing, acting swimming and cats. Last year took the role of Fish-Tush in *The Mikado*, and is thrilled to be able to perform in his second show with us as the lovestruck shepherd, Strephon.

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

Violins - Kate Ghent (Leader), Mary Barber, Becky Mellings, Lynda Dunn;
Viola - Andrew Bedford; **Cello** - Oona Hall; **Bass** - Susan Morgan
Trumpet - Rebecca Todd; **Trombone** - Ian Graham; **Horn** - Nick Barber;
Clarinets - Gary White, Lesley-Anne Pearson;
Flute - Jayne White; **Oboe** - Trudy Mansfield;
Percussion - David Richards

This page has been kindly sponsored by a Hopeful Waver.

The Queen of the Fairies - Stephanie Roe



My wish has finally been granted: to be playing the Fairy Queen. Another tick for my list. I have previously played Iolanthe - twice for Batley and once for Huddersfield Gilbert & Sullivan Societies, as well as Leila many years ago, but that is the beauty, fairies never grow old! I feel so lucky to have been involved with the Society for so long and the opportunities to play different roles that this has presented as well as the long-standing friendships that I continue to enjoy. This is such a lovely and friendly society and let us hope it can continue a little longer.

Iolanthe - Fay Church

This year, perhaps more than ever, we could all do with some joyful escapism; and what better way than to fly away with the fairies? Fay is excited to perform in her first principal role as the title character Iolanthe, having previously been part of the chorus in multiple productions with Leeds Gilbert & Sullivan Society as well as *My Fair Lady* and *Sister Act* with Wakefield West Riding Theatre Company. She follows in her late mother's footsteps, who performed with many big names as a singer and dancer.

Off stage Fay is an avid reader and amateur writer of fiction and fantasy which fits in very well with fairyland.



Phyllis - Heather Watson

Heather joins the cast for her first performance with Batley Gilbert & Sullivan Society. She trained at Leeds College of Music in Classical Singing, Opera and Performance, where she performed in several operas including Mozart's Magic Flute and Purcell's Dido and Aeneas. Since graduating she regularly performs with Northern Opera Group and has turned her hand to musical theatre with societies in Halifax, having recently played Anna in the *King and I* and *Chava* in *Fiddler on the Roof*.

Off stage Heather works as a member of the pastoral team in a secondary school and spends her time at home with her cat and many house plants.



Celia - Carol Parkinson

Carol joined Batley Gilbert & Sullivan Society in 1984 and has appeared in *Iolanthe* several times. This is her first time as a fairy and she is relieved to know that as such she can “never grow old”. Carol moonlights as a prompter for Dewsbury Arts Group, for whom she has also written one-act plays, and where she sometimes even appears on stage. Her next role is in the Arts Group’s production of Stephen Sondheim’s *Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street* in June, which is about as far from Fairyland as you can get!



Leila - Marilyn Cooper

Marilyn has enjoyed performing as a chorus member in various amateur dramatic shows over the years. After a lengthy break, she re-joined Batley Gilbert & Sullivan Society in 2016, performing the role of Inez in their production of *The Gondoliers* in 2017.

Iolanthe is Marilyn's favourite G & S show and she is delighted to be playing Leila as her second principal role for the Society.

Fleta - Debbie Moores

Debbie joined Batley Gilbert & Sullivan Society over thirty years ago and has enjoyed taking part in all but one of the duo's collaborations. The *Grand Duke* is the only one she hasn't performed in; but she greatly enjoyed having the opportunity to take part in *Utopia Limited*. A few years ago she relocated to Cheshire but didn't let a little thing like moving to “the wrong side” of the Pennines stop her being a member.

Iolanthe is one of Debbie's favourites. She is delighted to be playing Fleta. She and very much hopes that you enjoy the performance.



The Chorus of Fairies and Peers



Louie Fong



Richard Grigg



Philip Haley



David Hall



Lyndsey Hall



Tracey Hook



Tony Johnson



Philippa Johnstone



Caroline Ledgard



Steve Mohun



Tanya Parsons



Mel Stephen



Amanda Storey



Robert Thurman

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 *Iolanthe* he has played Strephon three times (the last time at the age of 50), Lord Mountararat once, and several chorus peers. 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 nine 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 last appearance there was as Larry in *Company*, and he is looking forward to singing in the chorus of *Sweeney Todd* at the end of June. He sings with Halifax Choral Society and has been a regular supporter of Opera North since their opening night in 1978.

**This page is sponsored in loving memory of Jonny and Dan;
loved and gone too soon.**



Across the years...

The Society first performed *Iolanthe* in 1950. The programme (left) shows how times have changed, with tickets ranging from 2/6 (12½p) to 3/- (15p) for the final performance.

Since then, we have staged a fully costumed and orchestrated production every year, with the exception of two years' enforced absence as a result of the pandemic. Next year will see the seventy-fifth anniversary of our formation in Hanover Street Congregational Church, when we hope to be able to stage 'Yeomen of the Guard'.



The cast of our 1972 production of *Iolanthe* when our President, Stephanie Roe was a fairy. Fifty one years later she has achieved the exalted status of Fairy Queen.



Our last production of *Iolanthe* was in 2011.

Our Accompanist - Andrew Bedford

Andrew is an extremely talented musician and has accompanied our rehearsals since 2017. He is a real asset to the Society and we are very lucky to benefit from his skills on the keyboard.

In addition to his mastery of the piano, he also plays viola in our orchestra and so is an integral part of our entire production, from the very first rehearsal to our final performance.

Thank you, Andrew, for your invaluable contribution to the Society.



The Lord Chancellor's costume has been kindly sponsored by
Sir Hugh Jharse

A colorful poster for the production of Iolanthe. The background features a stylized tree and various mushrooms. The text is as follows:

Batley
Gilbert & Sullivan Society
Presents
IOLANTHE
Or 'The Peer and The Peri'
Batley Town Hall
Wednesday June 15th - Saturday 18th June 2011
At 7.30pm
Matinee Saturday 18th June at 2.30pm
Tickets £9.00 & £8.00 (concession)
Details from 01924 458796
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The poster for our 2011 production featuring set design by Keith Horner.

A logo for True to Self Counselling featuring a stylized blue and green butterfly or wing design.

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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	2022 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

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Acknowledgements

Producer/Director	David Hall
Musical Director	Richard Buxton
Accompanist	Andrew Bedford
Set Design	David Hall
Scenic Artist	Chris Hall
Set Construction and Painting	David Hall, Chris Hall and the team
Stage Manager	Gaynor Goalby
Lighting	LX Stage Services Ltd
Properties	Debbie and Rob Moores
Prompter	Richard Buxton
Wardrobe	Lyndsey Hall
Costumes	Elizabeth Stagemear
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
Voice coach to the Lord Chancellor	Jim McEwan

Society Officials

President: Stephanie Roe, **Secretary:** Philip Haley. **Treasurer:** Robert Thurman
Executive Committee: H Baker, Simon Bray, Fay Church, Lyndsey Hall, Tracey Hook, Rita Ino-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, Mr E Kirkwood,
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

Representatives from Heckmondwike Players,
Halifax Gilbert & Sullivan Society, Batley Amateur Thespian Society,
Dewsbury Collegians, Carlisle Theatre Company, Dewsbury Arts Group.
NODA Regional Representative - Mr Les Smith
Members of the Auditions Panel and Guests: Mr Edward Thornton, Mrs Helen
Fox and Mrs Sandra Tinson, Mr John Tattersall and Ms Rowena Thornton.

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