

# Halifax Gilbert and Sullivan Society Newsletter

July 2019

<http://www.halifaxgands.org.uk>

Regd. Charity 1177572

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## The Gondoliers

a Club Night performance at  
All Saints Parish Hall,  
Godfrey Road, Skircoat Green

**Friday 12 July at 7.45 p.m.**

Do come along and invite your friends to this popular social evening. Join in the choruses (not compulsory !)  
– Copies will be available in the hall.  
Free admission with retiring collection



### Concerts and Club Nights

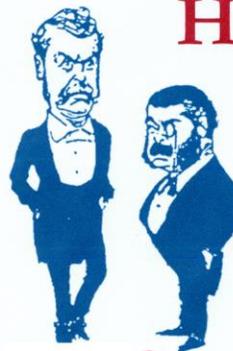
A busy week in progress. Friday sees our last Club Night before the summer, when a number of guests will be joining our cast for *The Gondoliers*. Do come and support us for what promises to be a most enjoyable evening.

The following day we present our final concert of the season at St Jude's, Savile Park. Gerry Wheatcroft is our guest soloist, so we will be in for a treat there. This is our own fund-raising concert, so please encourage your friends and neighbours to come along. There will be a wine (and soft drink) bar at the interval, and you can order tickets in advance or pay on the door (see poster to the right).

We'll give advance notice here of another concert later in the year, just after our production of *The Sorcerer*.

**Matt Monro and friends**  
**A tribute night with Ian Moorhouse**  
**Friday 16 November, 7.30, at Elland WMC**  
**Tickets £6.00 including supper**

Further details will follow, but please put the date in your diaries.



## Halifax Gilbert And Sullivan Society

in concert at  
**St Jude's Church**  
**Savile Park**  
**Saturday 13 July 2019**  
**7.30 pm**

Guest Singer : Gerry Wheatcroft

Wine Bar

Admission £7.00

01422 381931 or on the door

[www.halifaxgands.org.uk](http://www.halifaxgands.org.uk)  
Regd. Charity 1177572



## Charity Gala

Halifax Charity Gala took place on Saturday 8 June on Manor Heath, and once again the Society joined with All Souls AOS to run a crockery-smashing stall. Despite the almost incessant rain, the stall managed to attract a fair number of potential vandals, including the mayor's consort, who had a fearsomely accurate aim. We ended up taking over £200 to divide between the two societies. Many thanks to all who helped out during the day, some of whom are pictured putting up the stall while wearing the necessary costume.



## Subscriptions

Subscriptions were due on April 1 for the year 2019-2020. The rate is £30 for members, as agreed at the 2018 AGM, and £10 for patrons (members taking part in the show will also pay a £30 performance fee). You can pay on a Friday night or send a cheque to Stephanie Bolton, Aldwyn, Greenroyd Avenue, Halifax HX3 0LP.

If you have facilities for paying online, the Society's Account details are :

- Barclays, Halifax Commercial Street
- Sort code 20-35-84 ; Account number 20780502

Please give the reference SUB and your surname so that we can identify your payment.

## Forthcoming rehearsals

There will be a music rehearsal for *The Sorcerer* on Friday 19 July. For the following three weeks All Saints Parish Hall will be closed for building work, so we will not be meeting. There will be music rehearsals on Fridays 16, 23 and 30 August and 6 September, for those who are not on holiday, but keep an eye open for any messages to say (for example) that one or the other may be only for principals.

Floor rehearsals will start the week beginning 9 September, and the first chorus floor rehearsal will be Friday 13 September. We hope to have a schedule out before long, but generally rehearsals for the chorus will be on Fridays.

We have supplies of the A5 flyer (also provided, together with the booking form, as attachments for those receiving this Newsletter by email). Please contact Kathryn Buxton if you'd like some to give out or display.

## Harrogate G & S Festival

The G & S Festival at Harrogate runs from 7 – 18 August. You can find details at

<http://www.gs festivals.org/find-out-more/>

Sylvia Sowray tells us that she will be singing for the lunchtime entertainment in the Utopia Pavilion on Wednesday 7 August, from 1.00 to 1.30. Do go along and support her if you can.

A promotional poster for the production of 'The Sorcerer' at Halifax Playhouse. The background is dark blue with white stars. At the top, it says 'A HALIFAX GILBERT &amp; SULLIVAN SOCIETY PRODUCTION'. The title 'THE SORCERER' is written in large, bold, yellow letters. Below the title, it says 'Halifax Playhouse' and 'Wed 6 to Sat 9 November 2019'. The showtimes are '7:30pm Eve and 2:30pm Sat Mat'. Ticket prices are listed: 'Tickets £13', 'Concessions £11', 'Children Under 17 £5', 'Wed Eve - 2 tickets for £15', and 'Sat Mat - all adults £11'. A central illustration shows a man in a top hat and a long coat holding a large, ornate, golden bowl. In the bottom right corner, there is a 'Ticket Ordering' box with the phone number '01422 381931'. At the very bottom, the website 'www.halifaxgands.org.uk' and 'Regd Charity 1177572' are listed, along with the 'HALIFAX PLAYHOUSE' logo.

## A Trip to Pfennig-Halbpennig

It was a high powered society delegation which came together at a layby just off the M62 Junction 30 in the midst of Yorkshire's famed "Rhubarb Triangle". The President, the Chairman, a Life Vice President & distinguished former Chairman (Mr T Roberts), and two principal performers (Mr J Tattersall & Ms Christine Roberts) were off to Cottingham to see Hull Savoyards present *The Grand Duke*. Once John had finished his fish & chips and the President his sandwiches, and when everyone had enjoyed an al fresco parkin biscuit presented by the Chairman, all piled into John's venerable Saab estate for a scenic journey east in beautiful summer solstice sunshine, taking in the M62 and a short cut through North Cave and Little Weighton, before arriving at a car park right in front of the venue. Traffic had been good, and there was ample free time available before we needed to take our seats. All but one of the party went to the pub, the other went off, armed only with a camera, in search of buses.

What a treat we had on sitting down - a competent orchestra set the scene with the lively overture, before the action unfolded in what looked like a scene from *Oklahoma* - the setting had been moved from the customary 'somewhere in western Europe' to the American town of Pfennig Halbpennig, somewhere in the Old West. The eponymous magnus dux was the ill-tempered Sheriff. The cast were clearly having a whale of a time as the story proceeded. Some of the longer songs were cut, but this did no harm at all. Stuart Sellens, as producer, appeared and disappeared on stage as various minor characters, stage hand, and photographer. Zoë Sellens, as Lisa, played the overlooked soubrette perfectly. Leon Waksberg was a suitably bemused unintentionally polygamous Ludwig, and Louise Jacques was a confident Princess of Monte Carlo.

It was good to see a large and enthusiastic chorus supporting the principals, and even better to see a number of distinctly young performers. All were clearly enjoying themselves, and so we enjoyed it all the more. It certainly gave us hope that live G&S still has a future.

At the end of the performance, a man seated in the row in front of us turned round and asked each of our party their date of birth, before promptly coming back with a celebrity fact for that date. Such is the bizarre plot of *The Grand Duke*, even by Gilbert's topsy turvy standards, that not one of us found this a particularly odd thing to have happened during the evening. All too soon, then, we were heading west in John's Saab, observing that it was not yet fully dark even though it was nearly 11pm. We all had a great evening and agreed it was time we revived *The Grand Duke* for a club night!

*Andrew Stopford*