



The Gilbert and Sullivan Society of Sussex

President: Valerie Masterson C.B.E.

Vice Presidents: Stephen Brown, Simon Butteriss, Barry Clark, Bill Colbourne, Bruce Graham, Donald Maxwell, Cynthia Morey, Michael Simkins, Richard Suart.

Honorary Members: Christine Colbourne, Kay Tarran.

NEWSLETTER

From the Chair

Since our last Newsletter we have had some exciting things going on.

Apart from the fabulous concerts that Laurence talks about below we have been preparing for the Isabel Jay Concert to be held at D'Oyly Carte Island which you are all invited to attend (see overleaf for ticket information), also Kay, Richard and myself were invited to D'Oyly Carte Island to meet The Princess Royal and present Melvyn's collection to her. It was a very special occasion which I will tell you more about in the next addition of the G & S News.

I hope you enjoy the rest of the Summer and I would like to thank you for your continued support.

Sylvia Nixon (Chairperson)

We started the Society year with a visit from Opera Anywhere in January. Members of the group, Mike and Vanessa Woodward, Catrin Lewis, Dale Harris and the accompanist Matthew Rickard, treated us to a very entertaining presentation called Near Misses, Mayhem and Madness, which covered the extraordinary range of the company's innovative activities performing opera with a focus on accessibility and fun. Each member had so many amusing stories to tell us, not least about the various hazards they have faced, including low flying geese and scenery that was so wet from the rain it squelched. We were all also very impressed with both the beautiful singing and great acting of scenes from Gilbert and Sullivan including *Iolanthe* and *Patience*. Their great reputation and splendid reviews are clearly richly deserved and we look forward to welcoming them back in the future.

March sees the very welcome return of the Godalming Operatic Society presenting for us a concert version of their recent full production of *The Yeomen of the Guard*.

We will have our AGM in June (22nd) which will include a cream tea and quiz – in addition to the obligatory G&S questions, there will be some general knowledge questions as well to give a broad appeal.

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On 28th September, the non-profit-making, fund-raising group White Knight will be entertaining us with a *Come and sing Mikado* with professional soloists and you, the members of the audience, taking up the role of the chorus.

We will end the year with our regular Festive event on 30th November.

The G&S community has also been treated to a few G&S events so far this year:

A number of us went to Chichester to see one of our Vice-Presidents, Barry Clark, play the Major General in Tarantara's production of *The Pirates of Penzance*. A small cast sang and acted their roles beautifully in an updated production setting the action in 1919 – very reminiscent of "Peaky Blinders"!

In addition to this production of *Pirates*, Pennie went to the revival of Mike Leigh's production of *Pirates* at the ENO featuring G&S stalwarts such as Richard Suart (another of our Vice-Presidents) and John Savournin.

We are also now at the time of year where the annual subscriptions are due for renewal. Thank you to everyone who has already renewed and we hope that the rest of you intend joining us again for another year of G&S-filled entertainment. As a reminder, the annual rates are now £22 for single membership and £32 for joint / double membership.

Finally, we are really excited to have found an opportunity to revive the Isabel Jay Contest that was originally set up by her daughter, to reward excellence in amateur presentations of G&S. The contest will take place on the afternoon of Friday 4th July at D'Oyly Carte Island as part of the D'Oyly Carte Island Summer Concerts – currently we have four entries, each representing a different opera. This should be a fun event!

Tickets are available via TicketSource at:
<https://www.doylycarteisland.com/gilbert-sullivan>