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On Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> February we were treated to a very entertaining afternoon with Jane Metcalfe, the D'Oyly Carte Opera Company's principal mezzo between 1975 and 1979. A wonderful speaker, Jane gave a very amusing and informative talk, providing an insider's view to her time with the Company including touring with fellow principals, Kenneth Sandford and John Reed. The audience was kept spellbound with her anecdotes including the time that raccoons were part of her audience at the Greek Theatre in Los Angeles and meeting Queen Elizabeth and the Duke of Edinburgh at Windsor Castle when not everyone behaved impeccably! Jane featured in the last ever recordings of the D'Oyly Carte Opera Company and it was a joy to hear some of these in the selection of music played at this event. We also all shared in a bountiful afternoon tea which contributed to what was a most enjoyable occasion.

**All Things G&S - both locally and further afield**  
**An Evening of Gilbert & Sullivan: 11<sup>th</sup> February, The Ropetackle, Shoreham.**

Love, betrayal, comic relatives and marital disputes all added up to a lovely entertaining evening of Gilbert & Sullivan, playing to a packed and appreciative audience.

With a G&S pedigree as long as your arm, Yvonne Patrick, Louise Crane, Richard Woodall and David Menezes guided us through a wonderful selection of the very best (but aren't they all) of Gilbert & Sullivan's operas. Arias, duets, trios, quartets, and madrigals flowed as répétiteuse Lesley-Anne Sammons accompanied effortlessly on the piano. Throw in some dialogue and enthusiastic audience "A policeman's lot is not a happy one..." participation, the concert was rounded off with an encore of "Hail Poetry". A local chorus (including our own Pennie Ingram) ably supported these superbly talented professionals.

**Ruddigore at Wilton's Music Hall**

If you didn't get a chance to see Ruddigore a few weeks ago, you missed a great experience. Wilton's is a beautifully restored old Victorian venue, which provided the ideal setting for an atmospheric performance which was aided by eerie lighting. The opera was played with a cast of just 13 with some of the chorus even running to the "pit" to play an instrument or two. It was given an updated feel with some contemporary references but done so with much love, understanding and respect that even an old traditionalist like myself felt it was one of the best Ruddigores (if not the best) that I had ever seen. There were some stunning performances with a very high standard of both singing and acting being maintained throughout the work.

If it gets a revival (which I hope it does) do whatever is necessary to get a ticket.

**Things to look forward to!**

**23<sup>rd</sup> July 2023**

**Entertainment and AGM**

It's that time again for the AGM but we will start the afternoon with Laurence, our Treasurer, recreating one of John Cannon's "two screen" presentations covering the early D'Oyly Carte recordings, the Centenary Night, the Society generally and Melvyn's museum. Laurence gave this presentation at the Society's AGM in London last September to critical acclaim.

**10<sup>th</sup> September 2023**

**Richard Woodall, Rebecca Hughes and Russell Ablewhite** from the Eastbourne Gilbert and Sullivan Society who will entertain us for the afternoon. Those of you who saw their Ruddygore in 2022 will no doubt remember Rebecca for her excellent portrayal of Mad Margaret.

And to round off the year:

**26<sup>th</sup> November 2023**

**Barry Clark and Friends**

We are very pleased to announce the return of our Vice-President, Barry, to give us one of his excellent Christmas concerts. Hopefully some of you will recall his superb event from 5 years ago – I am sure this concert will sell out quickly once tickets go on sale.

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The much mentioned **visit to D'Oyly Carte Island** is still on for **Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> June**. The new owners continue to sort out the details but due to lack of space, the numbers will be limited to about 50. Elsewhere in this magazine will be more details and a form to complete and return to express your interest in attending.

**N.B.** We must bring to your attention before you apply that access to the island is very limited and the main entrance is over a steep metal bridge. They are looking at alternatives for those with mobility issues but this cannot be guaranteed at this stage. You can see images of what the bridge looks like by visiting the Island's website:

<https://www.doylycarteisland.com/copy-of-the-melvyn-tarran-collection>

### **Topsy Turvy 2**

As I am sure you are aware, friends and family held a tribute concert for Melvyn Tarran last year with Bruce Graham and Alexandra Hazard and it raised £2,500 for the hospice that cared for him in his final weeks. We are now planning a follow up G&S concert to raise funds for Cancer Research, a charity that was close to both Melvyn and Kay.

This concert will take place on Sunday afternoon 22<sup>nd</sup> October in the theatre in Hurstpierpoint College, in Mid Sussex. I can confirm that Barry Clark, Jane Metcalfe, Martin Milnes and Elinor Jane Moran are on board to headline the show (more names to be announced shortly). They will be supported by a chorus of, hopefully, 50+ singers, all of whom have a G&S background.

As well as the people on stage, we are wanting to have a number of people associated with G&S in the audience and already have commitment from Valerie Masterson, David Mackie and Cynthia Morey. Again, more names will be announced over the next few weeks.

Tickets will go on sale in June or July but Society members will be notified well in advance of the box office opening so keep this date free.