



The Gilbert and Sullivan Society of Sussex

President: Valerie Masterson C.B.E. **Co-President:** Melvyn Tarran

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

NEWSLETTER

Summer 2021

Dear All,

Well, here we are in our English summer - a mixture of heat, high winds, heavy showers, and generally unpredictable weather. Most of the covid19 restrictions were lifted on 19th July, although infections are still on the rise, and many people are continuing to exercise caution, as we are.

EVENTS REPORT

On Sunday 16th May at 2.45pm we enjoyed another of Laurence Leng's forty-five minute online romps through an opera - this time *The Sorcerer*. This has long been one of Laurence's favourites, and he did it full justice with a clever re-telling of the story, together with well-chosen illustrations and musical excerpts. Jane Leng masterminded the technical side of Zoom, making it easy for all to use.

Then on Sunday 25th July at 2.45pm they teamed up again to give us a witty abridged re-telling of *The Mikado*, again in just forty-five minutes. This is surely the all-time favourite Savoy opera for most people, though not perhaps for all our members. But we thoroughly enjoyed it, and Laurence is working hard towards creating abridged online versions of all the operas, and making them available to download at any time from our website. Brilliant!

Immediately following *The Mikado* we held our tenth Annual General Meeting. It should have been our eleventh, but we didn't hold one last year - merely sending out the relevant information by email. However, this time we did hold one, online, and it went very smoothly. The main item was the election of a replacement for Edwin Cowley as our Hon. Treasurer. Edwin stood down last year after serving some ten years in that capacity, for which he was elected an Honorary Life Member of our Society. However, Treasurers are hard to find, so we were relieved and delighted when Laurence Leng volunteered to take on the role. He has been doing the job for several months now, but needed to be formally elected to the post at our AGM. And needless to say, he was elected unanimously! All our other officers and committee members were willing to stand again, so were re-elected en bloc.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

On Sunday 26th September we will at last be returning to live entertainment, when at 2.45pm we will finally enjoy the long-deferred visit from Mae Heydorn. Mae describes herself as a mezzo alto, and we have enjoyed her performances for the professional Gilbert & Sullivan Opera Company at Buxton and Harrogate. She has also sung at Glyndebourne, and one of our Vice Presidents, the famous G&S bass baritone Bruce Graham, is a big fan of hers, and hopes to be with us at The Birch to hear her.

Please book with our new Treasurer on laurence.leng@yahoo.com and pay in advance, by bank transfer if possible: G&S Today at HSBC Bank, sort code 40-18-22, account number 42194783, adding your surname and 'Mae'. Tickets cost £8 for members and £14 for non-members - both prices include interval refreshments. Cheques are still acceptable and should be made payable to G&S Today and sent to Laurence at 6, Longhurst, Burgess Hill, West Sussex RH15 OTG.

Ring him on 01444 232577 in event of difficulty.

We encourage people to take lunch at The Birch prior to the concert, and it has been suggested that we ask the hotel to set up a G&S Table (or tables) for those of us who would like to sit together. Quite a nice idea, I think. Please book on 01444 451565 and ask to sit at the G&S Table, if that is your preference.

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EDITOR'S JOTTINGS

The international Gilbert & Sullivan Festival opened at Buxton on 31st July with HMS Pinafore, and from 2nd to 6th August five live professional performances were streamed online for those who were unable to attend in person. This was a new innovation, and at a cost of £60 for five shows was probably popular. But if, like us, you were already busy on those evenings, you can of course send for the DVD of any show you fancy. Just ring 01422 323252 and they will gladly take your order.

The Isabel Jay Trophy could not be competed for this year as the classes were held online, and were non-competitive. But the G&S class is now established as part of the Springboard Brighton Music Festival, and we very much hope that it will function fully in 2022.

Just a reminder that Opera Anywhere are presenting their own G&S Festival on Saturday 4th and Sunday 5th September at the Brighton Open Air Theatre in Dyke Road. The programme is Pirates of Penzance at 2pm and Mikado at 7pm on the Saturday, and HMS Pinafore at 11am and Patience at 3pm on the Sunday. Book on <https://www.brightonopenairtheatre.co.uk/event/gilbert-sullivan-festival>. They are offering discounts to people booking more than one show. I wish them luck with the weather!

Regards,
Bill.

Items for inclusion in our next Newsletter should be sent to:

The Editor, G&S Today, 12 The Platt, Lindfield, Haywards Heath, West Sussex RH16 2SY.

Committee Members: Chairman/Publicity: Bill Colbourne Treasurer: Laurence Leng Secretary: Sylvia Nixon
Membership Secretary: Christine Colbourne Designer: Richard Nixon
 Jane Leng Clare Samson