

## *DRAMATIS PERSONÆ*

THE LORD CHANCELLOR  
EARL OF MOUNTARARAT  
EARL TOLLOLLER  
PRIVATE WILLIS

*(of the Grenadier Guards)*

STREPHON

*(an Arcadian Shepherd)*

QUEEN OF THE FAIRIES

IOLANTHE

*(A Fairy, Strephon's Mother)*

CELIA

LEILA

FLETA

AGNETTA

BETTY

PHYLLIS

*(an Arcadian Shepherdess and Ward of Chancery)*

Michael Blackie

Mark Bond

Mike Halsey

John Day

Will Millow

Liz Morin

Karen Syvret

Lucinda Drelaud

Nicola Austin

Sue Chipperfield

Daisy Edmunds

Lucy Marsh-Smith

Gitte-Maj Donoghue

*Chorus of Dukes, Marquises,  
Earls, Viscounts, Barons:*

Simon Appleby  
Matthew Bradshaw  
Jamie Cairns  
Graham Chanter  
David Croxford  
John Day  
Geof Dingle  
Mike Edmunds  
Alan Higginbotham  
Stephen Higginson  
Andrew Jelley  
Frank Le Quesne  
Jean-Jacques Morin  
Andrew Parker  
Alistair Ross  
John Routier  
Peter Routier  
Roger Williams  
Peter Winn

## *Chorus of Fairies:*

Jean Ashworth  
Chloe Blampied  
Colette Chardine  
Rosemarie Courval  
Hanna Day  
Judy Dingle  
Elaine Doublet  
Katrina Hallpike  
Hannah Higginson  
Lydia Higginson  
Liz Kenyon  
Tracey McLaughlin  
Fiona Milne  
Arianne Morin  
Valentina O'Connor  
Emily Snell  
Victoria Steen  
Regina Thomsen  
Susan Turnbull  
Edna Vibert  
Margaret Williams

## MIND MY PENNY-FARTHING

### **Private Willis Writes Home**

*[With acknowledgements to the late Jack Warner]*

25<sup>th</sup> November 1882

Dear Mother and Father,

Well! Their Lordships have returned. You'll remember that in my last I told you how I was on sentry go outside Their Lordships' House when all of a sudden it come upon me that I was guarding an empty building. They'd all gone off somewhere without so much as a "by your leave".

Now, as you know, your Son ain't afraid of no-one and has a tongue in his head. And some of Their Lordships ain't too bad. They talk funny like they just put a bagful of victorias in their mouth, but they is civil and between you and me I gets on with them better than them what's in what they call The Other Place – stuck up lot if you asks me, but don't get me started. Anyways, one of these Lords come up to me and starts passing the time of day. They ain't supposed to do so, of course, and I'd be on a charge if my Sarge found out, but they knows that and never talks to me if he's around. Any road, this Lord is talking to me and I says to him, all bold like, "Where was Your Lordships the other day?" And he says, "We went to our Kay, dear." Bit familiar, I says to myself, but that's how these peers talk to each other and I suppose it's difficult to get out of the habit. Any rates, it seems they all went down to the country. Seeing as how most of them live there any way, you'd think they'd know how to dress. But no, they went dressed in all their finery, robes, coronets, the lot. Even the Lord Chancellor went. And do you know for why? For a girl, that's for why.

This Lord Chancellor, he's in charge of all these girls. They call them "Wards of Chancery" and he looks after them all. Well, there's one of them called Phyllis and all the Lords have fallen head over ears in love with her. It's my belief that even the Lord Chancellor has his eye on her. He might be passed what you call the first flush, but I seen a definite twinkle in his eye. So there's all these Lords a-leaping around her cottage hoping she'll choose one of them and the Lord Chancellor will give his consent, when she puts a spanner in the works by refusing the lot of them. Turns out she's got this shepherd called, if you please, Strephon. I asks you, "Strephon"!

Well, the Lord Chancellor ain't having that and sends young Strephon packing. And it's at this point that it all gets a bit confusing, but as I understand it, Strephon goes and complains to his Mother, who's called Iolanthe (don't ask me where they gets these names from), how unfair it all is. Trouble is, his Mother is one of those birds what never seems to get any older and whilst young Strephon is pouring out his soul, two of the Lords sees them and thinks he's playing fast and loose with Phyllis and they tell Phyllis and

Phyllis accuses Strephon and Strephon tells everyone that the lady he was talking to was his Mother and no-one believes him, but just laughs at him, and the Lord Chancellor comes to find out what all the row is about and, all in all, it's a fine old rumpus. Phyllis tells Strephon that it's all over between them and says that she is going to marry one of the Lords. This is all too much for Strephon and he calls out for someone called "Mighty Protectress" and, whoosh, she just appears – a sort of Oliver Cromwell, only female – just like that, bringing with her a whole party of females and it turns out, and before you says anything I ain't touched a drop, I say it turns out that they is all Fairies and the Mighty Protectress is their Queen. This is one in the eye for the Lord Chancellor, who up to then thought he was the King Pin and he gets a bit shirty and tells the Queen that she and her brood aren't wanted and had better clear off. This wasn't clever because the Queen then gets in a right two and eight and tells the Lord Chancellor he'd better mind his manners and in any case she has just decided to reform the House of Lords by putting Strephon into Parliament. Well, if there was a rumpus before, you can imagine how this went down. And then they all decide to come up to London.

If you ever had any thoughts that Fairies was dainty creatures what spend their time swinging on cobwebs and diving into dewdrops when they ain't dancing around fairy rings, you should come up to Westminster. I don't know about fairy rings, but they're certainly running rings round the poor peers. Strephon only has to mention a Bill and, lo and behold, it becomes Law. Their Lordships are fed up and the poor Lord Chancellor hasn't had a wink of sleep any night since they all arrived. The two noble Lords what was engaged to Phyllis, and aren't any longer, tell the L.C. he should persevere and may be he'll win Phyllis' heart.

But I'll tell you something. I occupies my time on sentry go and exercises my brain and I've come up with a theory that might astonish you. It is my belief that there's larks going on. I've been watching these Fairies and I've been watching Their Lordships and what I say is there's goings on. And not only amongst the ranks neither. I've noticed that Fairy Queen and I reckon she's noticed me and it's fair put the wind up me. If you asks me, strange things is about to happen. This place has taken on a strange atmosphere. The air is charged with amatory numbers – I got that line from young Grenadier Wells whose Uncle has some sort of magic shop over in the City. If you asks me it's to do with all these new-fangled electricity machines what's springing up, even in theatres, and who knows what the future holds?

Well. Ma and Pa, it's time for me to go back on sentry go, so I hope this finds you as it leaves me.

Your Loving Son,

Albert Willis.

## Iolanthe or the Peer and the Peri

### Glossary

**Peri** – a fairy or any beautiful girl. Originally, from Persian mythology and a race of beautiful but malevolent fairy like creatures who were descended from fallen angels and excluded from Paradise until they completed their penance. They were held responsible for comets, eclipses and the failure of crops. (Gilbert's experience of ladies' choruses?).

**Arcadia / Arcady / Arcadee** – a mountainous area in central Peloponnesus regarded by the ancient Greeks as the idyllic region of rural contentment.

**Ward of Court / Ward in Chancery** – the guardianship of minor children vested in the Court of Chancery for legal reasons including broken homes or disputed inheritance.

**Lord Chancellor** – the Lord High Chancellor of Great Britain (prior to the Act of Union, 1707, Chancellor of England and Lord Chancellor of Scotland). One of the great offices of state appointed by the Sovereign on the advice of the Prime minister and, by convention, a peer. Original responsibility was as guardian of the Great Seal. Ranks in order or precedence above all peers, except Royal princes and the Archbishop of Canterbury.

**Crumpled bands** – the strips of white cloth normally worn hanging from the neck by clergymen and lawyers.

**Bombazine** – the black material for clerical and legal gowns.

**Borough or two at my disposal** – In the early 19<sup>th</sup> century up to 200 parliamentary seats were in the private patronage of wealthy and influential individuals.

**Radicals** – left wing members of the Liberal party.

**Woolsack** – where the Lord Chancellor sits in the House of Lords. Originally placed in the reign of Edward III and of wool as a reminder of England's key trade of the time.

**Bar of the House** – the division between the Houses of Lords and Commons and as far as Commoners may enter in the House of Lords and as far as the Speaker of the House of Commons may approach to attend the Sovereign's opening of Parliament.

**Tabors** – small drums

**Flood** – See Genesis chapter 7 et seq., the destruction of civilisation so that mankind became descended from Noah who built the Ark to survive the flood.

**Mount Ararat** – the supposed landing spot of Noah's Ark (see Flood above) – and here a noble lord.

**Belgrave Square** – One of the grand squares in London, between Knightsbridge and Victoria, deriving its name from one of the titles of the Duke of Westminster the landowner of much of that part of London.

**Seven Dials** – just north of Leicester Square in London where seven roads meet, the largest being Monmouth Street. Originally laid out in the late 17<sup>th</sup> century by 19<sup>th</sup> century it had become a notorious slum area and still a byword for urban poverty into the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

**Blue blood** – high or noble birth. Spanish in origin, -the pure-blooded Spanish aristocrats, untainted by Moorish influences, had "bluer" blood than those of mixed ancestry.

**Affidavit from a thunderstorm** – an Affidavit is a written statement, confirmed on oath, to be used in court.

**Exchequer, Queen's Bench, Common Pleas, or Divorce** – separate common law courts with origins in the reign of Edward I (1272-1307) which decided revenue cases, civil actions and criminal actions respectively. Merged into the Queen's Bench division of the High Court by the Judicature Act in 1873.

**Bark** – derived from the French *barque*, a small sailing boat – "when tempests wreck thy bark"

**Ark** – see Flood.

**St James' Park** – between the Mall and Birdcage Walk and the oldest of the six Royal parks in London. In 19<sup>th</sup> century it had a reputation as a haunt for ladies of the night.

**Dolce far niente** – Italian for 'sweet doing nothing'.

**Festina lente** – Latin 'the more haste, the less speed'.

**Swain** – archaic word (swayne) - rustic lover or boyfriend.

**Countess** – There are no Counts in England but Countess is the term used for the wives of Earls, the supposed rank of Tolloller and Mountarat.

**Taradiddle** – slang word for a lie or fib.

**Repentè** – Italian and Latin word for suddenly, unexpectedly.

**Contra dicente** – from Latin *contradico*, to contradict.

**Badinage** – French, humorous banter.

**Vagary** – digression, rambling from subject

**Andersen's library** – Hans Christian Andersen, 1805-75, Danish author of fairy tales.

**Whig and Tory** – common names for Liberal and Conservative, the two main parties of Victorian England.

**Grouse and salmon season** – the seasons for hunting, fishing and shooting are regulated by Parliament.

**Canaille** – rabble or riff-raff

**Plebs** – abbreviation of 'plebeians' the derogatory term for the lower social orders in the later Roman Republic. (The upper classes were 'patricians').

**Hoi Poloi** – Greek equivalent of 'plebs', literally meaning 'the many'.

**Private** – the lowest rank of soldier, however the Houses of Parliament have always been guarded by policemen.

**Grenadier guards** – Perhaps Gilbert's choice had something to do with the colourful uniform. The most senior (not oldest) regiment of the Guards Division of the British Army. Formed in 1656 in the Spanish Netherlands as part of the exiled King Charles II bodyguard.

**Pretty kettle of fish** – awkward state of affairs or muddle. From old Border expression for a riverside picnic.

**Parliamentary Pickford** – Pickfords, the carriers and removers whose vans carried the slogan "We carry everything".

**Queen Bess** – Queen Elizabeth the first.

**Wellington thrashed Bonaparte** – Battle of Waterloo, 1815.

**King George** – King George III, reigning at the time of Waterloo.

**Bays** – Wreaths for conquerors and heroes, made from leaves of laurel or bay tree.

**British Representative Peer** – before the establishment of the Irish Free State in 1922, twenty-eight Irish peers were elected for life to sit in the House of Lords.

**Ovidius Naso** – reference to Latin poet Ovid, nicknamed Naso for his big nose.

**Captain Shaw** – chief of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade 1861-91 and attended the first night. "Could thy brigade with cold cascade quench my great love, I wonder".

**Irish tenantry** – see British Representative Peer.

**Guernsey** – no comment.

**Ravenous horde / Sloane Square and South Kensington Stations** – suggested to be a reference to two well known Radical politicians who lived near those stations who were something of a nightmare for the Prime Minister, Gladstone. The same source suggested the Fairy Queen was Queen Victoria and Private Willis a reference to John Brown, her manly ghillie. Queen Victoria apparently annoyed Gladstone by giving him audience in the presence of her children – the Fairies. On this basis, the Lord Chancellor should not sit whenever the Fairy Queen is on-stage!

**Ties pay the dealer** – In blackjack and pontoon the dealer, or banker, wins when hands are equal.

**Banburys** – cakes from the Oxfordshire town of that name.

**Rothschild and Baring** – Two of the leading banking houses in Victorian England.

**Six-eight time** – a happy coincidence, the time signature for nine of the songs and the overture of Iolanthe.

**Capacity / capacities** – the legal ability of both natural and artificial persons to engage in certain acts, such as making a contract. Legal incapacity is referred to as incompetence. - "Let us be thankful that we are persons of no capacity whatever".

**Faint heart never won fair lady** – apparently a proverb first recorded in 1569.

**Dark the dawn when day is nigh** - apparently dates from 1650.

**Don't say die** – In Dicken's Pickwick papers of 1837, "Never say Die".

**Maravedi** – Spanish coin minted in 1848 worth about on thirteenth of a penny.

**While the sun shines make your hay** – 1546.

**Where a will is, there's a way** – 1836.

**Beard the lion in his lair** – Daniel 6, 11-23 – tackle the enemy in his stronghold.

**None but the brave deserve the fair** – John Dryden's ode Alexander's Feast, 1697.

**Nothing venture, nothing win** – 1668.

**Blood is thick, but water's thin** – ties of family are stronger than any other – 1815.

**In for a penny, in for a pound** – 1695

**It's love that makes the world go round** – French, 1700.

**Equity draftsman** – an old name given to a barrister practising in the Court of Chancery who drafted pleadings to be heard in that court.

**Ill-convenience** – Traditionally Private Willis pronounced his 'v' as a 'w', in the manner of the Victorian lower classes, thus 'inconvenience' which appears in some versions of the libretto.



# *Musical numbers*

## Overture

### Act I

- |     |  |                                     |
|-----|--|-------------------------------------|
| 1.  | Opening Chorus of Fairies,<br>Soli (Celia and Leila)   | Tripping hither, tripping thither   |
| 2.  | Invocation (Queen, Iolanthe, Celia,<br>Leila, and Chorus of Fairies)   | Iolanthe from thy dark exile        |
| 3.  | Solo (Strephon and Chorus of Fairies)  | Good-morrow, good mother            |
| 4.  | Solo (Queen and Chorus of Fairies)   | Fare-thee well, attractive stranger |
| 4a. | Soli (Phyllis and Strephon)  | Good-morrow, good lover             |
| 5.  | Duet (Phyllis and Strephon)  | None shall part us                  |
| 6.  | Entrance & March of Peers<br>(Tenors and Basses)   | Loudly let the trumpet bray         |
| 6a. | Entrance of Lord Chancellor  |                                     |
| 7.  | Song (Lord Chancellor and<br>Chorus of Peers)  | The law is the true embodiment      |
| 8.  | Trio and Chorus of Peers (Phyllis,<br>Lord Tolloller, and Lord Mountararat)  | My well-loved Lord                  |
| 9.  | Recit. (Phyllis)   | Nay, tempt me not                   |
| 10. | Chorus of Peers and Song<br>(Lord Tolloller)   | Spurn not the nobly born            |
| 11. | (Phyllis, Lord Tolloller, Lord Mountararat,<br>Strephon, Lord Chancellor, and Chorus of Peers)   | My Lords, it may not be             |
| 12. | Song (Lord Chancellor)   | When I went to the Bar              |
| 13. | Finale, Act I (Phyllis, Iolanthe, Queen, Leila,<br>Celia, Strephon, Lord Tolloller,<br>Lord Mountararat, Lord Chancellor and<br>Chorus of Fairies and Peers) | When darkly looms the day           |

### Act II

- |     |  |                                      |
|-----|--|--------------------------------------|
| 1.  | Song (Sentry)  | When all night long a chap remains   |
| 2.  | Chorus of Fairies and Peers  | Strephon's a member of Parliament    |
| 3.  | Song (Lord Mountararat and Chorus)   | When Britain really ruled the waves  |
| 4.  | Duet (Leila and Celia with Chorus of Fairies,<br>Lord Mountararat and Lord Tolloller)  | In vain to us you plead              |
| 5.  | Song (Queen with Chorus of Fairies)  | Oh, foolish fay                      |
| 6.  | Quartet (Phyllis, Lord Tolloller,<br>Lord Mountararat, and Sentry)   | Though p'r'aps I may incur thy blame |
| 7.  | Recit. and Song (Lord Chancellor)  | Love, unrequited, robs me of my rest |
| 8.  | Trio (Lord Tolloller, Lord Mountararat,<br>and Lord Chancellor)  | If you go in you're sure to win      |
| 9.  | Duet (Phyllis and Strephon)  | If we're weak enough to tarry        |
| 10. | Recit. and Ballad (Iolanthe)   | My lord, a suppliant at your feet    |
| 11. | Recit. (Iolanthe, Queen, Lord Chancellor,<br>and Fairies)  | It may not be                        |
| 12. | Finale (Phyllis, Iolanthe, Queen, Leila,<br>Celia, Lord Tolloller, Lord Mountararat,<br>Strephon, Lord Chancellor,<br>and Chorus of Fairies and Peers) | Soon as we may, off and away         |

## *A word from the Director:*

Welcome to the show!

I am delighted to be directing for the Jersey Gilbert and Sullivan Society again. Iolanthe is one of my favourite shows and I have really enjoyed working with Annette Blanchet who has put the cast through their musical paces and Pat MacDonald who has had the fairies in fitness training for the last two months!

The cast members, principals and chorus alike have worked like Trojans to put this together and have had a lot of fun along the way. My thanks go to the G&S committee, in particular to Andrew Parker, for all the organising of the set, the costumes, the publicity and much more besides.

One of the things I love most about Gilbert and Sullivan is how relevant much of it still is today - we still have no idea what we're going to do with the House of Lords and have you ever thought that our politicians are living in fairyland.....?

Enjoy the show,

*Maria Stegenwalner*

*The Jersey Gilbert & Sullivan Society  
has performed the following Operas:*

Ruddigore	Lido de France	1982
The Mikado	Lido de France	1983
The Pirates of Penzance	Lido de France	1984
Iolanthe	Lido de France	1985
The Gondoliers	The Jersey Opera House	1986
Trial by Jury & HMS Pinafore	The Jersey Opera House	1987
The Yeomen of the Guard	The Jersey Opera House	1988
Patience	The Jersey Opera House	1989
The Mikado	The Jersey Opera House	1990
The Sorcerer	The Jersey Opera House	1991
Cox & Box	The Jersey Arts Centre	1991
The Pirates of Penzance	The Jersey Opera House	1992
Trial by Jury	The Jersey Arts Centre	1992
The Gondoliers	The Jersey Opera House	1993
Princess Ida	The Jersey Arts Centre	1993
Ruddigore	The Jersey Opera House	1994
Iolanthe	The Jersey Opera House	1995
HMS Pinafore	The Jersey Opera House	1996
Trial by Jury	The Magistrate's Court	1997
Patience	The Jersey Arts Centre	1998
The Grand Duke	The Jersey Arts Centre	1999
The New Savoyards Concert	The Jersey Arts Centre	2000
The Mikado	The Jersey Opera House	2001
Utopia Ltd	The Jersey Arts Centre	2001
The Yeomen of the Guard	The Jersey Opera House	2002
The Gondoliers	The Jersey Opera House	2003
The Pirates of Penzance	The Jersey Opera House	2004
HMS Pinafore	The Jersey Opera House	2005
Ruddigore	The Jersey Opera House	2006

*The Jersey Gilbert & Sullivan Society  
welcomes you to their production of*

*Iolanthe or The Peer and the Peri*

Dear Patron

As chairman of The Jersey Gilbert & Sullivan Society, I am delighted to welcome you to our production of Iolanthe. Iolanthe was the first of the Gilbert & Sullivan operas that opened in London and New York on the same day and this year celebrates its 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Iolanthe was the first of their collaborations that can be actually called a Savoy Opera as it was the first to open at the newly built theatre in London, The Savoy Theatre, which was the first theatre to have been lit by electricity. We are by no means the only Gilbert & Sullivan Society that is celebrating this 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary as there are at least 17 other productions in the UK alone!

A society such as ours is always grateful to receive financial support and are delighted that for the seventh consecutive year Standard Bank has decided to be our sponsor. Standard Bank's continued support enables us to produce as professional a show as possible at the Jersey Opera House.

I am delighted to welcome back Maria Stegenwalner as director this year. Not only is Maria a talented leading lady but of course has directed us before, her last production back in 2002 being Yeoman of the Guard. I am sure that you will agree with me that she has done a marvellous job and I would like to thank her on behalf of the society for all her hard work and for her traditional yet innovative take on this opera.

My thanks also go to the cast, choreographer Pat Macdonald and musical director Annette Blanchet for all their enthusiasm and efforts. Pat has managed to get the Peers to do-si-do and snuck in some classical ballet for the fairies in their opening number! Annette has risen to the challenge of not only taking both chorus and principal rehearsals this year but also to wave her baton at the orchestra.

I hope that you will enjoy our performance of Iolanthe, but should the plot be unfamiliar please read Private Willis's letter and the glossary. All that's left for me to say is, sit back, relax and let the overture begin.

Yours sincerely

Andrew Parker  
Chairman

## *Acknowledgements:*

The Director, Company and Society would like to take this opportunity of acknowledging their gratitude to the following people and organisations for their assistance in staging this production:

The Staff of The Jersey Opera House, Mike & Carolyn Cowan, Mark & Terri Bond, The Parishes of St Helier, St Brelade, St Peter & St Saviour, JADC, St Clement's Sport Club, Moore Stephens Jersey, Capita Fiduciary Group Ltd, Appleby Global, Sue Pipon, Transport & Technical Services Dept – Municipal Events Office, Grouville Primary School, Jersey Arts Trust, JCG Prep, Geof Dingle, Tourism, Jersey Insight, States of Jersey Ambulance Services, Channel TV, BBC Radio Jersey.

## *The Orchestra:*

Conductor     Annette Blanchet

Leader

Violin

Violin

Violin

Violin

Violin

Viola

Cello

Bass

Flute 1

Flute 2

Clarinet 1

Clarinet 2

Oboe

Bassoon

Trumpet 1

Trumpet 2

Horn

Trombone

Piano

Percussion

Pat Woodsford

Julie Riley

Keith Fox

Naomi Buckfield

Rhiane Sheehan

Louise Reagain

Emily Marriott

Amy Benest

Tony Charles

Helen Reid

Victoria Rees

Mim Fillmore

Patrick Renouf

Rachel Sutton

Nick Hubbard

Fiona Le Goupil

Derek Upton

Maria Le Brun

David Manning

Julie Millow

Brent Connan

## *Production:*

Director  
Choreographer  
Musical Director

Maria Stegenwalner  
Pat Macdonald  
Annette Blanchet

Deputy Stage Manager  
Lighting  
Lighting Design  
Sound  
Wardrobe

Liz Jones  
Sean Jones  
Robin Griggs  
Dave Cheetham  
Marion De Louche  
Brenda De Louche

Make up  
Prompt  
Costume Hire  
Poster Design  
Set Construction  
Rehearsal Accompanist:  
Orchestra Co-ordinator  
Programme  
Synopsis  
Publicity  
Back Cloths

Terri Bond  
Vicki Croxford  
Utopia, Dundee  
Andy Wooton  
Jersey Prison  
Julie Millow  
Fiona Le Goupil  
Liz Morin  
Michael Blackie  
Andrew Parker  
Border Studio