

## Ode to Iolanthe – 2024

read on stage by Kerry Black  
after the final curtain came down on *Iolanthe*  
on Saturday 24 February 2024

Every year come rain, hail or snow,

Dunfermline G&S strive to put on a show.

This year it's *Iolanthe* with the greatest twist of all,

They've decanted all the fairies to the Thanolie Village Hall.

With a set of great distinction, built by Margaret and her crew,  
And Michael's modified script. (He's a vicar and chancellor too).

Mark is his assistant, helping bring it all to life,

While Sinead and her committee deal with all the strife.

Eddie's back with his orchestra, guiding us from the pit,

While Carol plays piano, ensuring the right notes are hit!

Front of house there's John welcoming folk to the Carnegie Hall,

While Ann, Theresa and George staff the WI stall.

Elaine plays the Fairy Queen with muckle wings and a wand,

While the ladies chorus are fairies, giving her a haund.

David is our Stephon, rushing hither and thither,

While poor Jen as Phyllis is dismayed to find the cleaner is his mither.

Aye, Caroline's our Iolanthe, who dared to marry a mortal,

Sharing her cupboard with Willis, in her magical fairy portal.

Proving she's a real shaker and a mover ,

With a 'goblin' for her Hoover!

Amanda and Lindsay do the props, I'm 'touched' how they're so jolly.

While I've been 'put on the book' – I must be off my trolley!

We've lots of lords in curtain robes, bedecked by braw rosettes,

Made by Liz and her trusty crew, thanks to her successful pets!

Liz and Robin lead the lords, so dignified and stately,

If they all could find their coronets, they would help us greatly.

The men start out as cricketers or playing in a band,

Till they're drummed up to be peers, to rule our glorious land.

We've a bevy of beautiful dancers from the local dancing schools,

While our chorus navigate the joys of dealing with wings and stools!

Shan and Angie are leading the fairies with their plaintive Willaloo,

But it takes an entire company to bring the show to you.

Karen needs a special thanks for helping at the church,  
Without Limekilns' great service we'd surely be in the lurch.  
There's scenery, sewing and programmes and don't forget Jack's Caff,  
There are so many 'invisible' helpers, to help give folk a laugh.  
So as the curtain falls and we feel that final fairy glow,  
Here's to 2025 and another fabulous show!

Kerry Black  
24 February 2024