



Newsletter

Autumn

2017

Welcome to our autumn 2017 newsletter, keeping you in touch with what's happening at Stewartby Amateur Operatic and Dramatic Society.

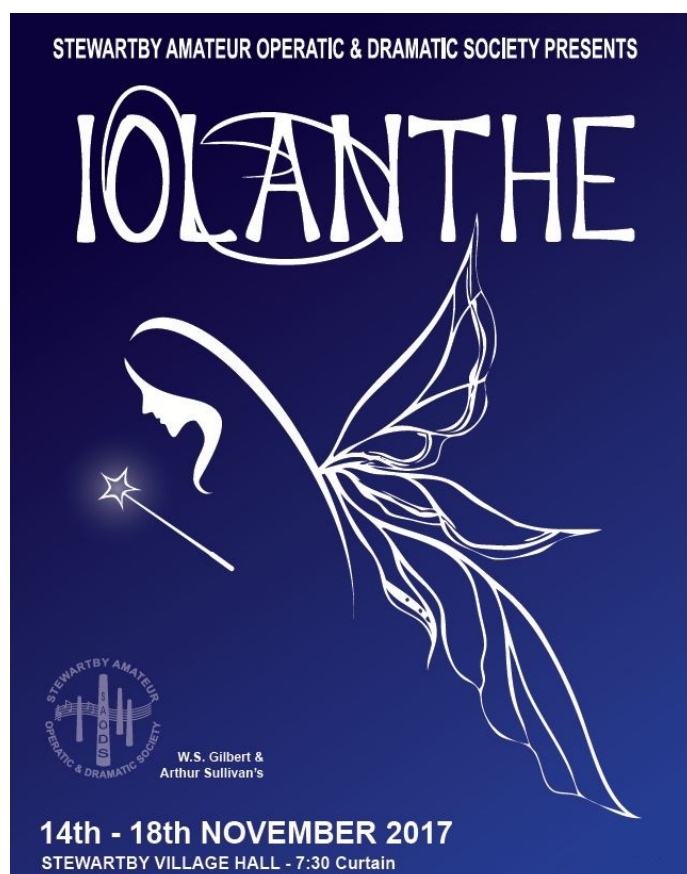
This is an electronic newsletter which can be delivered automatically to your email inbox or downloaded from the website. To sign up go to www.saods.org.uk, scroll to the bottom of the page and enter your email address. We promise that we will not use your email address for any purpose other than the delivery of the newsletter.

Iolanthe

Have you got your tickets yet for our next show? You wouldn't want to miss it. Iolanthe runs from Tuesday 14th November to Saturday 18th November inclusive at Stewartby Village Hall.

Subtitled "The Peer and The Peri" the story pokes fun at the House of Lords and the party political system and includes some joyous songs.

Tickets cost £12 and are now available to purchase online. Follow the link from www.saods.org.uk. Please note that online ticket purchases will incur a booking fee of £1 per ticket. You can purchase tickets from cast members or by contacting our business manager Mike Cocke on 07557 670703 or email boxoffice@saods.org.uk.



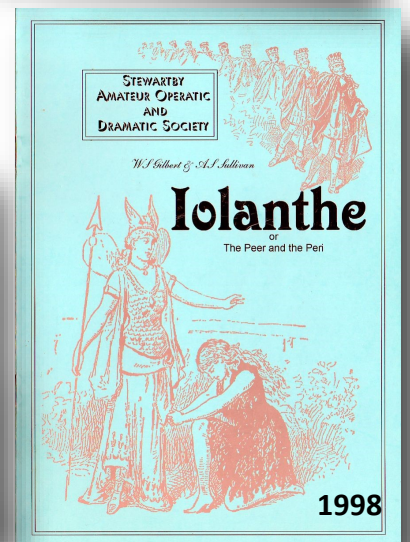
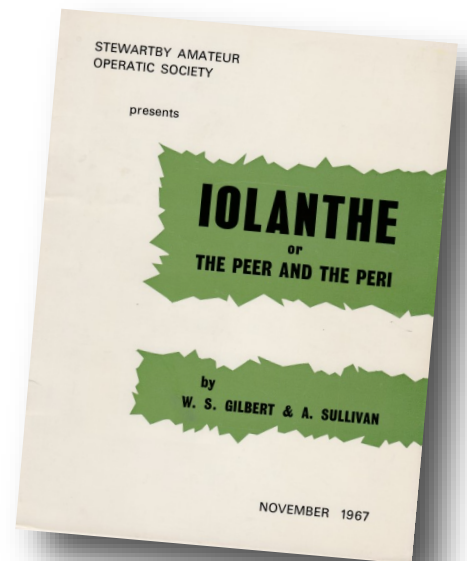


Producer Wendy, musical director Alana and choreographer Carol are putting the cast through their paces in rehearsals.

Unfortunately, due to illness, Jessica Hallett has had to step down from the role of Strephon. The Society wishes her a speedy recovery and we look forward to seeing her in leading roles in the future. We welcome back Stephen Hoath and thank him for agreeing to take on this important and extensive part.



Iolanthe was last performed by the Society in 2008 and prior to that in 1998, 1986, 1975, 1967 and 1956. A trawl through the archives has revealed copies of all the programmes for these shows - which can be seen on the relevant pages online at www.saods.org.uk - and a few photographs.



Auditor

Does you know somebody who would be able and prepared to audit the Society's books? Anyone reasonably numerate and willing would be a great help. If you know someone please talk to our Treasurer, Mike Cocke, or any of the committee, or email information@saods.org.uk.

Peter Magee

Society members and friends were saddened to learn of the death of Peter Magee on 8th September, 2017. Peter had been a member of the society for many years, taking lead and chorus roles until a few years ago when illness struck him. The following is adapted from the eulogy read by the celebrant at Peter's funeral at Cambridge Crematorium, by kind permission of Margaret, his wife.

Having met in November 1959 at a social event where Margaret was singing, the following February Peter joined the operatic society in Enfield of which Margaret was already a member, and the rest is history.



Peter in 2003

Peter and Margaret's lives were greatly enhanced by their love of music and they were both trained by a professor from Manchester College of Music. Their first leading roles were in HMS Pinafore in 1963, four months before they married.

After this they took on many more leading roles. Peter even tried going professional at one point doing panto at Daventry and then at Windsor where he entertained the Royal Family.

For over sixty years Peter took part in numerous concerts and shows at Stewartby and Upwell Operatic Societies and his local Music Hall.

Peter retired from work in 2002 having travelled all over England as a consultant engineer in pipework expansion, leading projects on jobs such as London Heathrow Airport, hospitals and museums and he designed the air conditioning in the cockpit of Concorde.

It was after he retired that his health started to deteriorate and he was diagnosed with Parkinson's. Three years ago he was admitted to the Red House Care Home in Ramsey where he passed away.

He will be greatly missed.

The Society has donated £100 to Parkinson's UK in Peter's memory.



Peter and Margaret
Iolanthe, 2008



Ruddigore, 2009

Patrons

Patrons' contributions to the Society are gratefully received and, with apologies for the omission from the summer newsletter, we are very pleased to welcome Becky Wright as a new patron. If anyone would like to become a patron of the Society please contact the Secretary, Hazel Daniels, at information@saods.org.uk.

Productions in 2018

The annual spring concert will take place at Stewartby Village Hall on Friday 27th and Saturday 28th April, 2018. It is slightly earlier than in previous years because of the position of the May Day bank holiday. Titled "To Reach For The Stars" and directed by John Epton, it will include songs from stage and film. If you would like to perform in the concert, rehearsals begin on Thursday 11th January, 2018, at Stewartby United Church hall at 7.45pm.

After much debate amongst members and the committee it has been decided to stage Gilbert and Sullivan's Ruddigore in November 2018.

Discussions revolved around whether to continue the long tradition of Gilbert and Sullivan productions or to take on something different; if not G&S, what could we do?



No decisions have been taken for 2019 so if you have any comments or suggestions as to the choice of production please let them be known by speaking to any member of the committee or via email to information@saods.org.uk.

Car Parking

A reminder for those attending rehearsals and performances at Stewartby Village Hall, Stewartby Parish Council have pointed out that there is a car



park next to the shop on Stewartby Way. This should be used in preference to blocking local roads and to damaging the grass verges. Please also remember to leave the village hall quietly so as not to disturb local residents.

Thank you.

Dates For The Diary

Thursday 22nd February 2018: Annual General Meeting at the church hall

Saturday 3rd March 2018: Annual dinner at Stewartby village hall

Saturday 10th March 2018: Grand Jumble Sale at Houghton Conquest village hall

Friday 27th and Saturday 28th April 2018: Spring Concert at Stewartby village hall

Happy Birthday, Mr Chairman

Our chairman, John Epton, celebrated his 70th birthday during the summer. Several members and friends of the Society helped John to commemorate the occasion, joining him for a meal at The Chequers in Ampthill.



Grand Jumble Sale

Held on Saturday 23rd September, the jumble sale contributed £360 to Society funds. Thanks go to the chief organiser, Pam Massey, and to all the helpers on the day. Make a note on your calendar - the next jumble sale will be on Saturday 10th March, 2018 at Houghton Conquest village hall.

Quiz challenge

Our friends at Putteridge Bury Gilbert and Sullivan Society will be hosting a quiz in November.

PUTTERIDGE BURY G & S SOCIETY
PRESENTS
THE BIG ANNUAL QUIZ OFF
7:30pm
Saturday 25th November 2017
Hitchin Boys School

*"SOMETHING FAMILIAR,
SOMETHING PECULIAR,
SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE..."*

Limited availability. Book now to reserve your space

Tickets include:
Hot Food, tea & coffee
Come as a team (5 - 8 people)
or create a team on the night. £10 per person
Bring your own drinks.
Book Now: info@pbgs.org or contact us on Facebook

It will be a mix of questions with a few specialist musical theatre rounds. It would be great fun if SAODS could field one or more teams to take on the PBGS team and other teams from some of our local musical theatre societies and take home the fabulous winners' trophy. Think of the prestige of having your name on the trophy as the first winner!

The evening will be a relaxed affair at Hitchin Boys School with a fish and chip supper (veggie and other options available) included in the price and you are invited to bring along other drinks for the evening.

Teams are of 5 - 8 people but smaller numbers are welcome as some teams will be made up on the night. For more information or to reserve a table, contact Stephen Hoath or info@pgbs.org.uk.

To stop receiving the newsletter please send an email to stewartbyoperatic@saods.org.uk with the word UNSUBSCRIBE as the subject.

If you wish to suggest items for or make contributions to future newsletters or to comment on this newsletter please email stewartbyoperatic@saods.org.uk

Information about Stewartby Operatic Society can be found at our web site at www.saods.org.uk and on Facebook at www.facebook.com/stewartbyopearticsociety. Queries about tickets should be sent to boxoffice@saods.org.uk. Any other queries should be sent to information@saods.org.uk.

