



Newsletter

Spring

2017

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

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Spring Concert

Rehearsals are in full swing for the spring concert "An ABC of Musical Entertainment". Colin Jones, ably assisted by rehearsal pianists Pam Rogers and Brian Caves, has been putting the cast through their paces with the musical element since January with a wide variety of songs from



"How Much is That Doggy In the Window" to "Can't Help Lovin' Dat Man of Mine", from "The Bare Necessities" to "We'll Keep a Welcome in the Hillside". How all that, and much more, fits in to an ABC of musical entertainment will be revealed at the performances. Carol Wallman and Margaret Snape have devised and introduced the choreography for several of the songs and are



coaching and cajoling the performers to get into the correct positions and to move in the right direction, all in time with the music and whilst singing. Sometimes that is not as easy as it might sound!



The concert includes a meal, a raffle, a licensed bar and a quiz as well as outstanding entertainment and the chance to sing along to a few well known tunes on Friday 5th and Saturday 6th May at 7.30pm at Stewartby Village Hall. Tickets are available through members of the cast and cost £15 each.

Annual General Meeting

The AGM of Stewartby Amateur Operatic and Dramatic Society was held at Stewartby United Church Hall on Thursday 9th March. The 27 members present heard the chairman, John Epton, give his annual report, highlighting the events of the past year including the concert "This is 1956" and the production of Gilbert and Sullivan's "Patience", the annual dinner, the fundraising jumble sale and the sad loss of members Eric Caves, George Thompson and Edith Smith.

The Treasurer, Bill Hall, presented the accounts showing a loss on the production of "Patience", a slight drop in income from fundraising and patrons' donations, nearly £1500 in donations to charities but, overall, a generally healthy bank balance.

A revised "Constitution and Rules" was explained to the members and accepted by a unanimous vote.

The election of officers produced the following committee for 2017

Chairman - John Epton

Deputy Chairman - Colin Jones

Treasurer and Business Manager - Mike Cocke

Secretary - Hazel Daniels

Chair of the Social Committee - Pam Massey

Liaison with the Wardrobe sub-committee - Bex Badham

Committee members - Shirley Hale, Bill Hall, Jenny Hall, Richard Hull and Carol Urwin

A Wardrobe sub-committee was agreed comprising Jenny Jackson, Carol Wallman and Bex Badham.

The production for November 2017 was confirmed as Gilbert and Sullivan's "Iolanthe" and discussion ensued regarding the choice of show for November 2018 and the theme of the spring concert 2018. It was suggested that the society should choose a show other than a Gilbert and Sullivan operetta but as there was no general agreement it was left to be discussed further by the new committee.

The completion of business was followed by refreshments of tea, coffee and cake.

Car Parking

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.

Jumble Sale

The Grand Jumble Sale at Houghton Conquest Village Hall on Saturday 25th February raised approximately £300 for society funds.

The date of the next jumble sale has still to be finalised at the time of publication but is likely to be in October.

Annual Dinner

The annual dinner took place at Stewartby Village Hall on Saturday 11th March with entertainment provided by Bex, Ruth, Charles, Mike and Peter.



Future Shows

Our production from Tuesday 14th to Saturday 18th November, 2017, will be Gilbert and Sullivan's Iolanthe. In this "fairy opera," the House of Lords is lampooned as a bastion of the ineffective, privileged and dim-witted. The political party system and other institutions also come in for a dose of satire.



IOLANTHE
OR
The Peer and
the Peri

image from the Gilbert and Sullivan Archive

Rehearsals begin on Thursday 11th May at 7.30pm at Stewartby United Church Hall with auditions on Sunday 4th June at Stewartby Village Hall.

What Would You Like To See?

There have been many discussions amongst the membership, the committee and our friends as to what shows the Society should produce in the future. Should we stick to Gilbert and Sullivan operettas or try something else? What should we do for the spring concerts? If you have any views on this matter we would be happy to hear them. Email

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