



# Newsletter

## Summer

### 2017

**Welcome** to our summer 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](http://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.

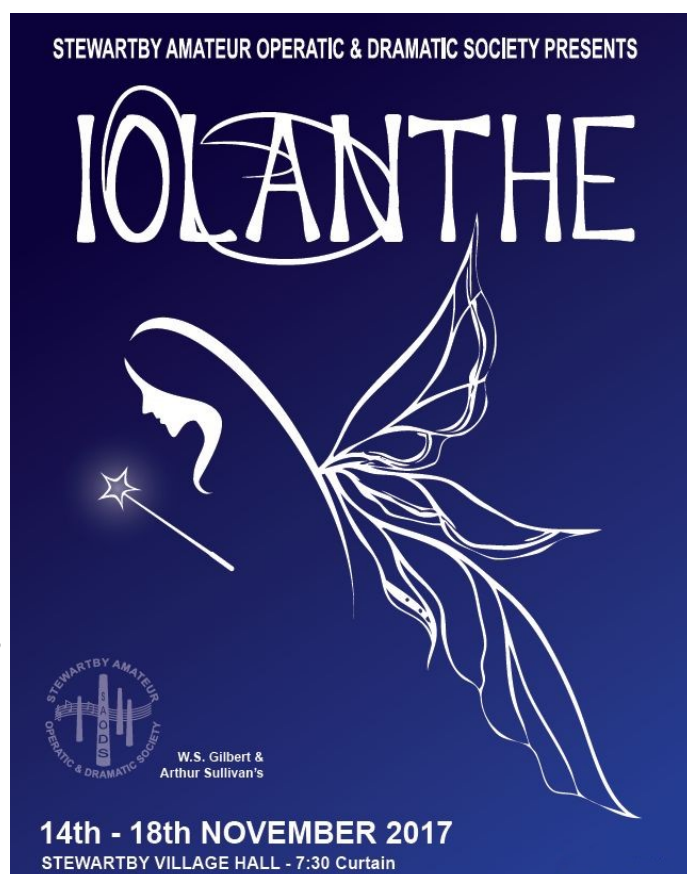
#### Our Next Show

With performances from Tuesday 14th November to Saturday 18th November inclusive our next production will be Gilbert and Sullivan's Iolanthe. By the time you read this newsletter the cast will be note perfect (hopefully) having rehearsed the songs since May.

The following information and synopsis are taken from [The Gilbert and Sullivan Archive](http://The Gilbert and Sullivan Archive).

Both Gilbert and Sullivan were at the height of their creative powers in 1882, and many people feel that Iolanthe, their seventh work together, is the most perfect of their collaborations.

Strephon, an Arcadian shepherd, wants to marry Phyllis, a Ward of Chancery. Phyllis does not know that Strephon is half fairy (his upper half



— his legs are mortal!) and when she sees Strephon kissing a seemingly young woman, she assumes the worst. But her "rival" turns out to be none other than Strephon's own mother, Iolanthe, a fairy — fairies never grow old. But Phyllis' guardian, the Lord Chancellor, and half the peers in the House of Lords are sighing after her. Soon the peers and the fairies are virtually at war, and long friendships are nearly torn asunder. But all is happily sorted out, thanks to the "subtleties of the legal mind".



original watercolour by W. Russell Flint

Gilbert had taken pot shots at the aristocracy before, but 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. Yet, both author and composer managed to couch the criticism among such bouncy, amiable absurdities that it is all received as good fun.



Tickets for our production cost £12 and are now available to purchase online. Follow the link from [www.saods.org.uk](http://www.saods.org.uk). Please note that online ticket purchases will incur a booking fee of £1 per ticket. You will also be able to purchase tickets from cast members or by

contacting our business manager Mike Cocke on 07557 670703 or [boxoffice@saods.org.uk](mailto:boxoffice@saods.org.uk).

The principal cast for our production of Iolanthe is as follows:

Queen of the Fairies	<i>Bex Badham</i>
Iolanthe	<i>Linda Bowen</i>
Phyllis	<i>Claire Moore</i>
Strephon	<i>Jess Hallett</i>
Earl of Mountararat	<i>Peter Davis</i>
Earl Tolloller	<i>Charles Mills</i>
Lord Chancellor	<i>John Epton</i>
Shadow Chancellor	<i>Colin Jones</i>
Private Willis	<i>Peter Stephens</i>
Celia	<i>Carol Urwin</i>
Leila	<i>Margaret Snape</i>
Fleta	<i>Sandra Buck</i>
Delia	<i>Margaret Magee</i>
Sentries	<i>Mike Cocke</i>
	<i>Andrew Hodges</i>
	<i>Colin Jones</i>



Producer	<i>Wendy Field</i>
Musical Director	<i>Alana Thackray</i>
Choreographer	<i>Carol Wallman</i>

Iolanthe aficionados will note the inclusion of some extra characters: how they fit into the story will be revealed in November!

## Concert at Houghton Conquest

On the evening of Saturday 15th July some of our members performed at Houghton Conquest Church to help to raise funds for the maintenance of the church.

The concert was led by Shirley Hale and included a variety of Gilbert and Sullivan



numbers, some items from the Spring Concert and monologues.

In a letter to Shirley, Carol Juffs, on behalf of the PCC of All Saints Church and Friends thanked everybody for their hard work and commented that “everybody who came said it was wonderful, it is greatly appreciated”. The event raised £388 for the church.

## Committee Meetings

On average every six weeks the Society’s committee meets to report on what has happened and to plan what is going to happen.

One particular item which appears on every meeting’s agenda is the Treasurer’s Report: a brief summary of expenditure and income from the previous period. The membership will be reassured to know that the Society’s finances are in good order but it is important to note that whilst the jumble sale in February, the dinner in March, the concert in May and kind donations from friends, members and patrons each contributed a few hundred pounds to the bank balance the production of *Patience* in November last year ran at a significant loss. For this reason the committee continues to urge members to sell, and the public to buy, as many tickets as possible for the November production of *Iolanthe*. Patrons contributions to the Society are gratefully received and we are very pleased to welcome John Hartop 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](mailto:information@saods.org.uk).

Another topic for discussion, and one which has occupied a lot of time at recent meetings, has been the choice of shows for future production. The topic of what to do in November 2018 was raised with the members at the AGM in March this year but the decision has yet to



be made. The Society has always produced Gilbert and Sullivan operettas and the next in line is Ruddigore. There have been suggestions, however, that we should move away from the usual list and try one or more of the less-well-known titles, for example Trial By Jury and/or The Zoo. Some members would like to move away from Gilbert and Sullivan altogether and have suggested shows such as Brigadoon or Fiddler On the Roof. The dates for 2018 have been set (Tuesday 20th to Saturday 24th November - make a note!) but discussions continue.

### On The Website [www.saods.org.uk](http://www.saods.org.uk)

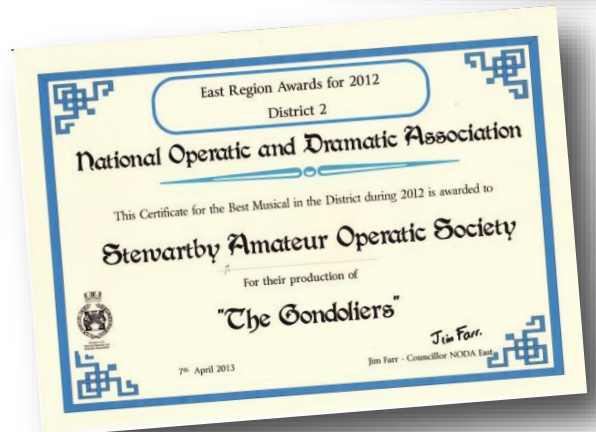
Have you looked at the Society's website recently? As well as information on future shows there are pages illustrating the Society's past. Many of



our previous productions are featured with photographs, video clips and copies of the programmes. The "History" page includes a brief history of the Society, an account of the Stewartby



Operatic Special Edition Commemorative Plate, photographs from the 60th Anniversary Dinner, a summary of concerts in recent years and links to the awards presented to the Society by the National Operatic and Dramatic Association (NODA).



### Grand Jumble Sale

With less than five months until Christmas now is the time to clear out a few cupboards and drawers to make space for all your presents! Donate your items of jumble and bric-a-brac to the Grand Jumble Sale to be held at Houghton Conquest Village Hall on Saturday 23rd September. Then, come along to the sale, enjoy a cup of tea and a cake and search out some bargains.

To stop receiving the newsletter please send an email to [stewartbyoperatic@saods.org.uk](mailto: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](mailto:stewartbyoperatic@saods.org.uk)

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