



# Newsletter

## Autumn

### 2018

**Welcome** to our autumn 2018 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.

### Ruddigore

Tickets for our production are available to purchase online. Click on the BOOK NOW image (below) or 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 adult ticket. You can also 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).



*Ruddigore posters created by and with thanks to Stephen Hoath.*

**Ruddigore trivia:** Vincent Price played the role of Sir Despard Murgatroyd to Keith Michell's Robin Oakapple in a 1982 video version.

STEWARTBY AMATEUR OPERATIC & DRAMATIC SOCIETY PRESENTS  
W.S. Gilbert & Arthur Sullivan

# Ruddigore

**20th - 24th NOVEMBER 2018**  
STEWARTBY VILLAGE HALL - 7:30 Curtain  
Tuesday £10  
Wednesday to Saturday £12  
Children (Under 16yrs) Half Price  
<https://www.facebook.com/StewartbyOperaticSociety>

BOX OFFICE:  
Tel: 07557 670703  
email: [boxoffice@saods.org.uk](mailto:boxoffice@saods.org.uk)  
<http://www.saods.org.uk>

## Recruiting

As a Society we are very aware that we need to recruit new members. None of us are getting any younger - a point which is driven home when the director has to ask how many people are able to kneel down on stage, getting the response that kneeling is not difficult, it's getting up again that is the problem.

We consider that the name of Stewartby Operatic Society is well known in the area amongst the established residents but not, perhaps, by those who have recently moved into the area to fill the swathes of new housing. As such we have produced some postcards which have been or are being delivered door-to-door to the new estates in Wootton, Stewartby, Cranfield and other areas. If you feel that you would be able to deliver some in your area please get in touch. The front of the postcards advertises Ruddigore, so they are time limited, and the reverse is shown here.



If you are keen on musical theatre as a performer, back stage or front of house, why not give us a try?



Established in 1951 Stewartby Operatic has produced a Gilbert and Sullivan operetta in November each year and concerts and light-hearted reviews at other times.

We rehearse in Stewartby on Thursdays and some Mondays and our main performances are at Stewartby Village Hall.

Our shows for 2019 will be a tribute to 100 years of the Bedfordshire Women's Institute and "The Pirates Of Penzance".

To find out more visit our web site [www.saods.org.uk](http://www.saods.org.uk) or call Hazel on 01908 616213 or Carol on 01234 767618



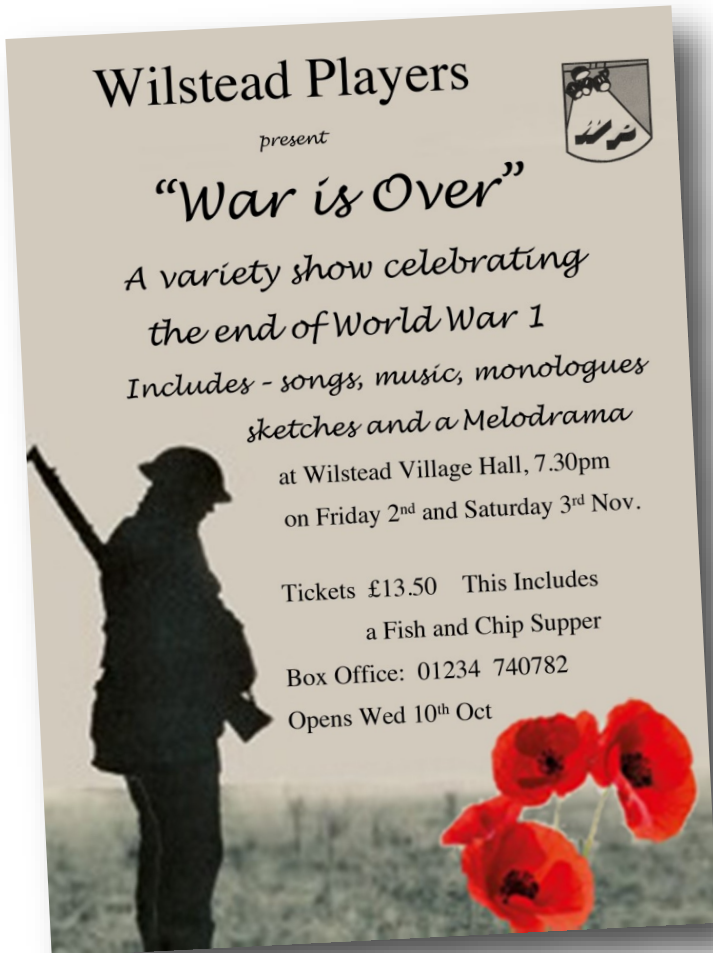
**Ruddigore trivia:** The name Ruthven (pronounced "Rivven") was banned in Scotland in the 17th century after the Earl of Gowrie, whose family name was Ruthven, kidnapped James VI of Scotland.

## Obituaries

It is with great sadness that we have to report the deaths of Phil Street, June Swain, Ray Massey and Joan Caves. Phil Street was known widely in the region for his directorial work on Gilbert and Sullivan operettas and guided Stewartby Operatic on several occasions. June Swain, Ray Massey and Joan Caves all performed with the Society and continued their association long after they retired from treading the boards. Our sympathies and thoughts are with their families.



## Links With Other Societies



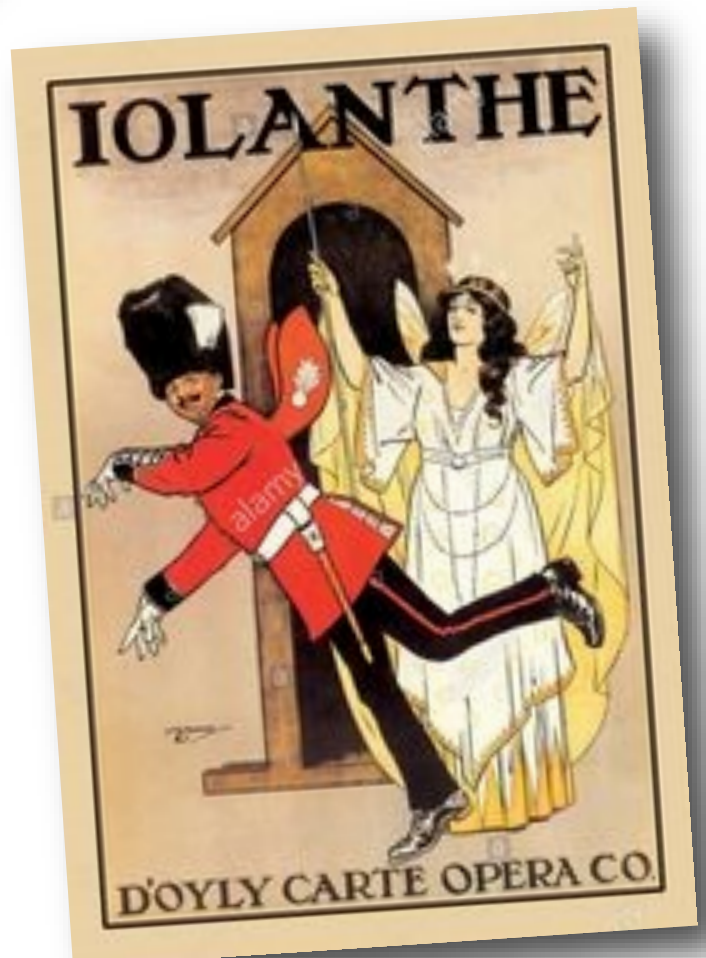
Wilstead Players  
Friday 2nd and Saturday 3rd November



Putteridge Bury G&S  
20th to 23rd March, 2019



Bedford Pantomime Company  
22nd December to 1st January



Upwell G&S  
11th to 13th April, 2019

**Ruddigore trivia:** The original title of the operetta was Ruddygore but this caused considerable offence and was considered unsuitable for a family audience. A friend commented that he saw no difference between Ruddygore and Bloodygore which gained the response “Then I suppose you’ll take it that if I say I admire your ruddy countenance I mean I like your bloody cheek”. Gilbert eventually changed the title to Ruddigore.

### Car Parking

Another 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.

**Ruddigore trivia:** Ruddigore was the first of Gilbert and Sullivan’s operettas to receive a poor reception from its first-night audience.

### Dates For The Diary

A list of dates for your diary can be found on the Society’s web site at [www.saods.org.uk](http://www.saods.org.uk). Also on the web site are links to many of our fellow groups mentioned in this and previous newsletters. We would be delighted to add to these contacts. If you have links to other groups please let us know and we can help to advertise their productions too.

Wilstead Players “War Is Over” 2nd, 3rd November 2018

Bedford Pantomime Company “Aladdin” 22nd December, 2018 to 1st January, 2019

Stewartby Operatic jumble sale 23rd February, 2019

Putteridge Bury G&S Society “The Grand Duke” 20th to 23rd March, 2019

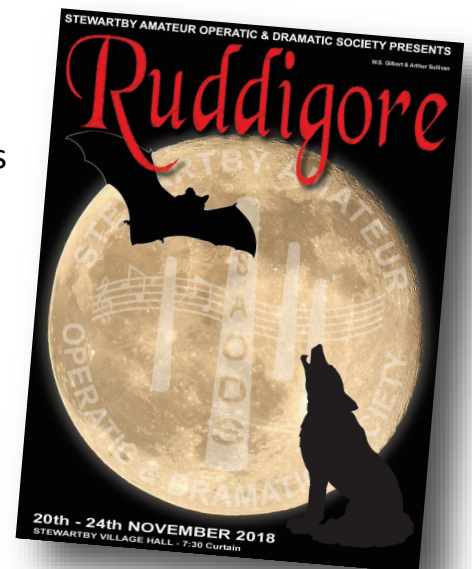
Stewartby Operatic annual dinner 23rd March, 2019

Upwell G&S Society “Iolanthe” 11th to 13th April, 2019

London Marathon (with a link, to be revealed next time) 28th April, 2019

NODA Awards at Wiksteed Park 12th May, 2019

Stewartby Operatic Spring Concert 16th, 17th, 18th May, 2019





## Jumble Sale

The jumble sale in September at Houghton Conquest Village Hall was another roaring success thanks to Pam and her helpers. There was a good crowd in attendance and, in total, £360 was raised for Society funds. The next jumble sale will be on Saturday 23rd February 2019 so don't throw out all those clothes - keep them for us.



**Ruddigore trivia:** Baronets are members of the lowest hereditary titled order in Britain.

## Little Paxton

On Friday 12th October a group of singers from the Society performed at St James' Church, Little Paxton, to help raise money for the maintenance of the church. The church was full and



there were some very appreciative and knowledgeable audience members: from the front it was possible to see a lot of the Gilbert and Sullivan fans mouthing the words. The programme comprised music from Ruddigore, The Mikado, The Gondoliers, The Sorcerer and The Pirates Of Penzance and was interspersed with monologues provided by Wendy. Pam was at the keyboard providing the music and it was all masterminded and led by Shirley.

Thanks to the inhabitants of Little Paxton and beyond for supporting the concert and to the

people at St James' Church for making us so welcome.

The Society is very happy to put on concerts of this type for the benefit of communities and charities. If you know of a good cause please contact Hazel, our Secretary, on 01908 616213 or at [information@saods.org.uk](mailto:information@saods.org.uk) to start the ball rolling.



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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