



# Newsletter

## Spring

## 2018

**Welcome** to our spring 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.

### **Annual General Meeting**

The AGM was held at Stewartby United Church Hall on Thursday 22nd February. In his report the Chairman highlighted the events of the previous year and thanked members and friends for their help at the sold-out concert in spring 2017, the annual dinner, the jumble sales, the concert - led by Shirley Hale - at Houghton Conquest Church and the November performance of Iolanthe.



In further remarks regarding Iolanthe the Chairman commented on the difficulties presented by the shortage of men auditioning and performing. He also thanked Stephen Hoath for standing in at short notice to play Strephon when Jessica Hallett was taken ill and wished Jessica good health for the future. The production of Iolanthe has been nominated for an award by NODA for the best musical in the region (more about this on page 2).

The Chairman concluded his report by thanking the committee for their support, in particular Hazel Daniels as Secretary for many years, and by announcing that he was standing down from the chair.

The Treasurer reported a net loss of approximately £2000 on Iolanthe. As he commented, although the Society's bank balance is still reasonably healthy, we cannot afford to continue making losses of this magnitude (Patience in 2016 made a similar loss). The Treasurer thanked the Society's patrons for their financial contributions and appealed for more people to become patrons.

In view of the Treasurer's report there followed discussion regarding membership fees which, by unanimous vote, were increased to £40 per year for Singing or Acting Members and to £10 per year for Associate Members.

Lady Skeet was confirmed as President and Prue Gardiner and Allan Thomas as vice presidents of the Society.

The membership voted for appointments to the committee as follows:

Chairman - Colin Jones

Deputy Chairman - John Epton

Treasurer and Business Manager - Mike Cocke

Secretary - Hazel Daniels

Social Secretary - Pam Massey

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

The post of Publicity Officer was not filled.

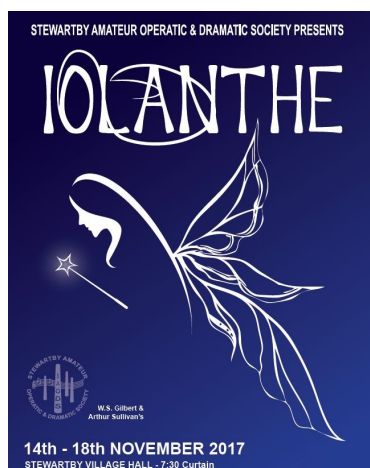
The members present approved the choice of The Pirates of Penzance as our production for November 2019.

### **Jumble Sale**

The Jumble sale on Saturday 10th March was well attended as always and made a profit of £277 towards the Society's funds. Many thanks to Pam Massey for organising it and to all those who contributed in any way.



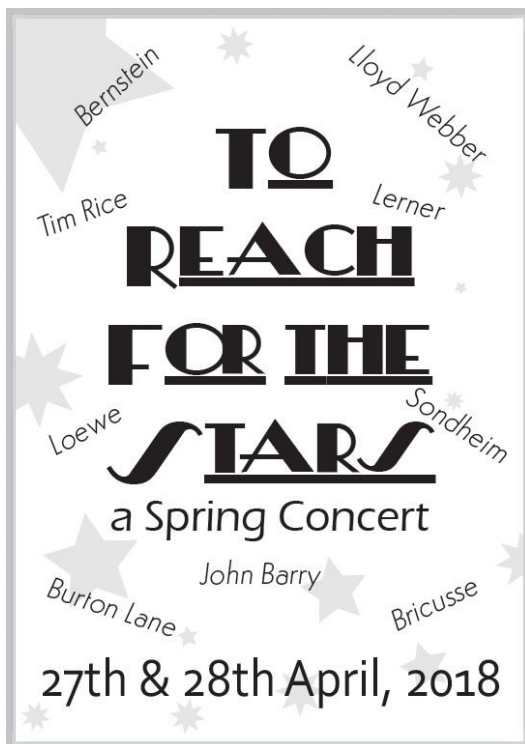
The next jumble sale will be on Saturday 22nd September at Houghton Conquest Village Hall.



### **Iolanthe 2017**

Stewartby Operatic Society's production of Iolanthe in November 2017 has been nominated for the award of Best Musical at the NODA East Gala Awards to be held at the Burgess Hall in St Ives on Sunday 13th May. Congratulations to our producer Wendy Field, musical director Alana Thackray, choreographer Carol Wallman and to everyone who made the production such a success.

## To Reach For The Stars



Our Spring Concert features music from the stars of stage and screen. The musical director is John Epton and choreography is by Carol Wallman. As always there will be a two course sit-down meal included in the price of the tickets and a licensed bar. At £16 for adults and £8 for children under 16 tickets are very

good value and are on sale now through cast members or by contacting our box office at [boxoffice@saods.org.uk](mailto:boxoffice@saods.org.uk).

With songs from Fiddler On the Roof, Camelot, Gigi and Brigadoon, to name but a few, the concert will be on stage at Stewartby Village Hall on Friday and Saturday 27th and 28th April.



## Membership Subscriptions

A reminder to members, patrons and friends of the Society that annual membership subscriptions are now due. As reported earlier, after several years without an increase members voted at the AGM for subscriptions to rise to £40 per year for Singing or Acting Members and to £10 per year for Associate Members. There is no fixed subscription for patrons and we welcome and thank them for any contributions they are prepared to make.



## Links With Other Societies

We have discussed in committee the desire to make stronger links with other local dramatic and musical societies in order to promote their and our shows to a wider audience and to encourage mutual support and membership of the societies. We have had links for many years with Putteridge Bury Gilbert and Sullivan Society and have “shared” performers on many occasions.

Former member and current patron and supporter of Stewartby Operatic, Martin Wells, is associated with Upwell Gilbert and Sullivan Society whose performance of the Mikado is coming very soon.

We now also have contact with Jon West of Bedford Pantomime Company with regard to their Christmas production - see page 5 for details.

Upwell Gilbert and Sullivan Society  
Presents

# THE MIKADO



Thursday 12th, Friday 13th & Saturday 14th April 2018  
St. Andrews Methodist Church, Outwell, PE14 8TD

Adults £7.50    Children £4  
Box Office: 01945 773070



## Felici

Some of our members also perform with Felici, an experienced company of musicians bringing high quality and creative musical and operatic events to audiences. In particular, Gordon Hodges (director of *Patience* in 2016, and performer in shows and concerts) is singing in a concert, **A Box of Opera Delights** - a special selection of favourite opera treasures in support of the church restoration and to raise funds for the production of *Don Giovanni* later in the year.

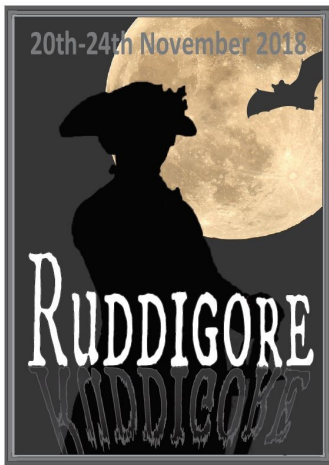
**Saturday 5th May, 7.30pm**

**St Andrew's Church, Ampthill**

**Tickets £15 from 01525 404625**

For more details visit [www.felici.company](http://www.felici.company)





## November Show 2018

The first rehearsal for Ruddigore will be on Thursday 10th May at 7.45pm at Stewartby United Church Hall. Everybody is welcome to come along to find out about the production and to sing through the music.

Auditions will be on Sunday 27th May. In order to audition you must have attended at least two rehearsals and be a paid-up Associate or Singing or Acting Member.

## Bedford Pantomime Company

Would you like to be involved in a fun show, bringing Christmas cheer to the people of Bedford and the surrounding areas?

We have auditions at the end of June for all parts, large or small, main cast and chorus. It doesn't matter what skill level or experience you have just a willingness to get involved, have fun and be committed. The show runs from the weekend before Christmas until the 1<sup>st</sup> of January at Bedford Corn Exchange, but not all days have a show, some days have one show and some have two.

The Bedford Pantomime Company have been putting on shows for 13 years, we give a portion of our profits to local children's charities and so far have raised over £20,000, the rest of the money goes in to running the next show, nobody gets paid we just do it for the fun and because we love it.

Rehearsals start in September, twice a week but not all cast are required for every rehearsal. We have an age limit for cast of 12 to 112 years old. There are two workshops before the auditions which we ask people to come to one or both to learn a simple dance, song and character lines. Auditions are inclusive, fun and relaxed, we just need to see willingness, who fits which parts and how everyone fits together.



**If you would like to get involved then our workshops and auditions are on:**

**Workshops – Sunday June 24<sup>th</sup> 2.00pm to 4.00pm & Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> 7.30pm to 9.00pm.**

**Auditions – Sunday July 1<sup>st</sup> 2.00pm to 5.00pm.**

**At Livingstone Primary School, Clapham Road, Bedford, MK41 7LG**

We can be contacted via our website [www.bedfordpanto.com](http://www.bedfordpanto.com) or on our Facebook group Bedford Pantomime Company or email [info@bedfordpanto.com](mailto:info@bedfordpanto.com)

Send us a message if you would like more details or just come along to the workshops and have some fun.



**A Little Night Music** PBGS Putteridge Bury G&S Society

10<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> October 2018 Music and Lyrics by **STEPHEN SONDHEIM**

The Queen Mother Theatre  
Walsworth Road, Hitchin, Herts SG4 9SP  
Box Office (from June): [www.qmt.org.uk](http://www.qmt.org.uk)

Book by **HUGH WHEELER**

Orchestrations by **Jonathan Tunick**

Suggested by a Film by **Ingmar Bergman**

Originally Produced and Directed on Broadway by **Harold Prince**

This amateur production is presented by arrangement with Music Theatre International (Europe). All authorised performance materials are also supplied by MTI Europe. [www.mtishows.co.uk](http://www.mtishows.co.uk)

## Dates For The Diary

Thursday 12th to Saturday 14th April 2018: The Mikado by Upwell G&S Society

Friday 27th and Saturday 28th April 2018: Spring Concert at Stewartby Village Hall

Thursday 10th May 2018: first rehearsal for Ruddigore at Stewartby United Church Hall

Sunday 13th May 2018: NODA East Gala Awards

Sunday 27th May 2018: auditions for Ruddigore at Stewartby Village Hall

Sunday 1st July 2018: auditions for Bedford Pantomime Company

Saturday 22nd September: Jumble Sale at Houghton Conquest Village Hall

Wednesday 10th to Saturday 13th October 2018: A Little Night Music by PBGS

Tuesday 20th November 2018: first performance of Ruddigore at Stewartby Village Hall

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