



Newsletter

Summer

2018

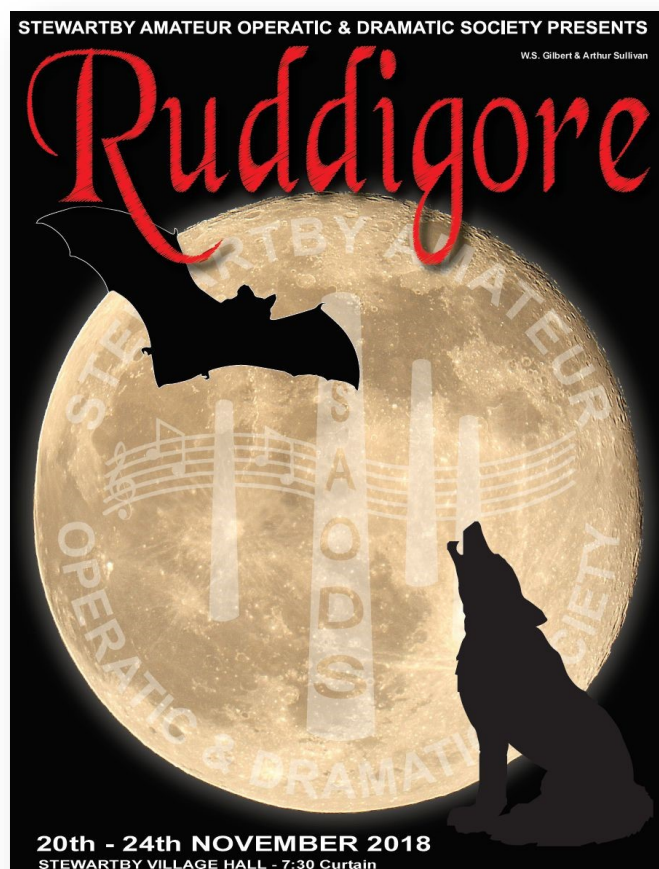
Welcome to our summer 2018 newsletter, keeping you in touch with what's happening at Stewartby Amateur Operatic and Dramatic Society.

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, 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.

November 2018 Production

From Tuesday 20th until Saturday 24th November we will be performing Gilbert and Sullivan's operetta "Ruddigore" or "The Witch's Curse" at Stewartby Village Hall. Rehearsals are well under way and there are some beautiful sounds emanating from our rehearsal room at Stewartby United Church as principals and chorus get to grips with the wide range of styles of songs.

First performed in 1887 The opera is a parody of the stock melodrama - complete with dastardly villain, poor-but-virtuous heroine, the hero in disguise and his faithful old retainer and all joined by ghosts and a troupe of professional bridesmaids.



The principal cast for Ruddigore is as follows.

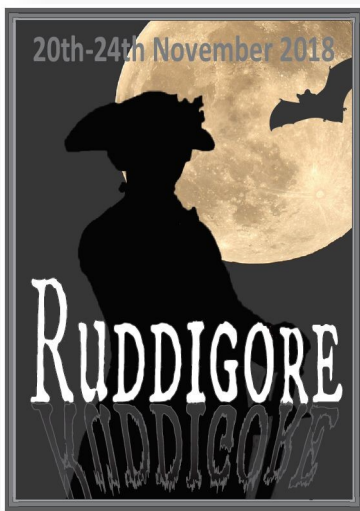
Rose Maybud
Dame Hannah
Robin / Sir Ruthven
Old Adam
Richard Dauntless
Mad Margaret
Sir Despard Murgatroyd
Sir Roderic Murgatroyd
Zorah
Ruth
Bruce
Wayne

*Carol Urwin
Margaret Snape
Andrew Hodges
Peter Stephens
Charles Mills
Linda Bowen
Peter Davis
David Crew
Jessica Hallett
Sandra Buck
Colin Jones
Mike Cocke*



original watercolour by W. Russell Flint

Musical Director *Alana Thackray*
Director *Colin Jones*



Our production is set at an indeterminate time which feels like it should be the mid 1800s. The Baronets of Ruddigore are cursed. Anyone who succeeds to the title has to commit a crime every day - or perish in inconceivable agony. Robin Oakapple, a farmer, loves Rose Maybud, but is too shy to say anything. Robin has a secret, however. He is really Sir Ruthven Murgatroyd, the rightful Baronet of Ruddigore, in disguise. His younger brother, Despard, believing Ruthven to be dead, has assumed the title. Robin's foster brother, Richard, seeking Rose for himself, tells Despard of Robin's deception, and Robin is forced to accept his true position, losing Rose to Richard in the process.

Now the Baronet of Ruddigore, Robin is confronted by the ghosts of his ancestors in the gallery of Ruddigore Castle for failing to conscientiously commit his daily crime. Robin eventually finds a way of satisfying his ancestors' demands whilst continuing to live a blameless life...



Tickets for our production are available to purchase online. Click on the BOOK NOW image (left) or follow the link from

www.saods.org.uk. Please note that online ticket purchases will

incur a booking fee of £1 per adult 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.

Summarised plot of Ruddigore adapted from and the banner picture taken from the Gilbert and Sullivan Archive (www.gsarchive.net). Ruddigore posters created by and with thanks to Stephen Hoath.



Links With Other Societies

You will be aware from the Spring 2018 newsletter of our desire to strengthen ties with other local dramatic and musical societies. Some of our members perform with other societies and we are very happy to help to publicise their events. We are pleased to add a new “friend” to our list. Wilstead Players was formed in 1971 after an influx of new young families to the village at the start of the housing boom. The Group performed many serious and more light-hearted productions during the early years along with annual revues of sketches, dancing and singing, involving lots of people from the village, both on stage and behind the scenes.



Wilstead Players

Every year the Players aim to put on a Spring Production, a show to include a meal, and a Christmas show, either a pantomime or children's play.

The next production - in November - is likely to take the form of 'A Celebration For The End Of WW1', but not a Music Hall. Details have yet to be finalised but the event is provisionally fixed for Friday and Saturday, 2nd and 3rd November with general rehearsals on Sundays and Wednesdays from the middle of August.

(some text adapted from the Wilstead Players web site www.wilsteadplayers.co.uk)

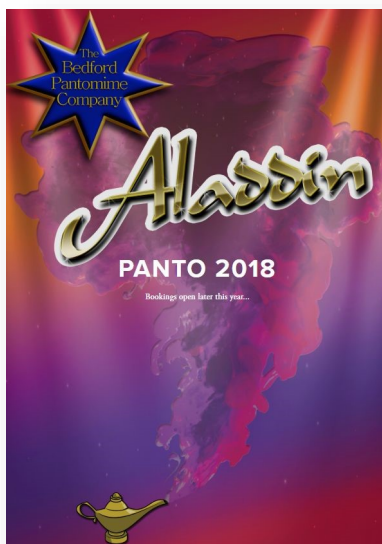


Felici

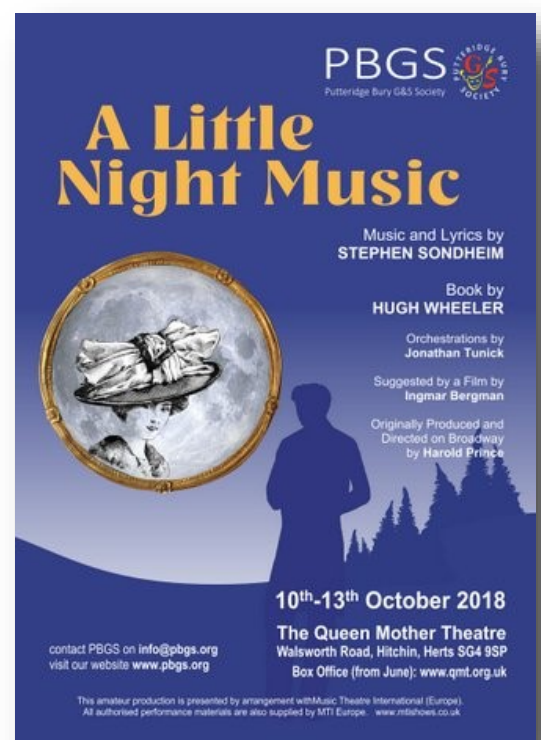
Felici are putting on an exciting new production in English of Mozart's Don Giovanni on Saturday 29 September 2018 at St Andrew's Church, Ampthill in support of St Andrew's Church exterior repairs appeal. Tickets £25 (£22 senior citizens, £15 children). For tickets please call 01525 404625.

Bedford Pantomime Company and Putteridge Bury G&S

It's too late to audition now (oh no it's not, oh yes it is) but look out for Bedford Pantomime Company's production of



Aladdin this Christmas. More details will be given in the autumn newsletter. Before that, Putteridge Bury G&S are staging Steven Sondheim's A Little Night Music from 10th to 13th October at the Queen Mother Theatre in Hitchin, featuring a number of faces familiar to the Stewartby stage.



Bedfordshire Youth Opera

Bedfordshire Youth Opera is unique in the UK providing one of very few opportunities for young people aged 14 – 26 to experience opera, for both singers and orchestral players.

This year's production is Leonard Bernstein's *Candide* from 28th August to 1st September at The Place Theatre in Bedford. Tickets are £16 for adults and £12 for under 18s or unwaged, from [The Place Theatre](#).



Berkhamsted Theatre Company

Written by ABBA songwriters Benny Andersson and Bjorn Ulvaeus alongside Tim Rice, *Chess* is a story of love and political intrigue set against the backdrop of the Cold War. Two of the world's greatest chess masters, one American, one Russian, are in danger of becoming the pawns of their governments as their battle for the world title gets under way. Their lives are thrown into further confusion by a woman who becomes the centre of their emotional triangle, mirroring the political struggles that threaten to destroy lives and loves. *Chess* includes the hit singles 'I Know Him So Well' and 'One Night In Bangkok' with other well-known songs.

Berkhamsted Theatre Company has established a reputation for producing Amateur Theatre of the highest quality that has audiences returning time and time again.



Chess runs 9th to 13th October with evening performances at 7.30pm and a matinee performance at 2.30pm on 13th October. Tickets are now on sale priced at £17.50.

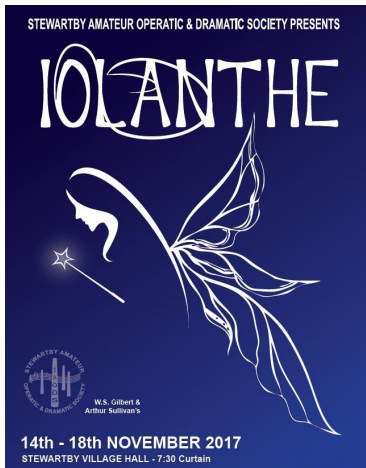
text adapted from www.berkhamstedtheatre.co.uk

Philharmonia Orchestra

The Virtual Orchestra is for all the family, giving everyone the opportunity to experience a symphony orchestra up-close. With family workshops, fringe concerts, guided tours, live performances and a virtual reality experience there is plenty to see and do. There is a small charge for the family workshops and the final concert but everything else is free. The installation is at the Riverside Square development in Bedford town centre every day until 10th August. For more details go to the [Philharmonia Orchestra web site](#).



Iolanthe 2017



Stewartby Operatic Society's production of Iolanthe in November 2017 was nominated for the award of Best Musical at the NODA East Gala Awards held at the Burgess Hall in St Ives on Sunday 13th May. We did not win but Hazel Daniels and Margaret Magee attended and received a certificate of nomination.



Jumble Sale

The next jumble sale will be on Saturday 22nd September at Houghton Conquest Village Hall. This is an opportunity to clear some drawer space, to find some bargains to refill those drawers and to partake of light refreshments and a raffle.



Little Paxton



photograph from the web site of the Benefice of the Paxtons

On Friday 12th October a group of singers from the Society will be performing at St James' Church, Little Paxton, to help raise money for the maintenance of the church. The programme will comprise some old favourites and some lesser known songs from Gilbert and Sullivan operettas, including from our 2018 production, Ruddigore, and will be led by Shirley Hale. Details and tickets are available from St James' Church.

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. 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.

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.

