



Newsletter

Spring

2019

Welcome to our spring 2019 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.

Concert

2019 sees the centenary of the establishment of the Women's Institute Federation in Bedfordshire (the first UK WI was set up in 1915). Stewartby Operatic Society's annual spring concert will be dedicated to celebrating this momentous occasion with a selection of music spanning the last hundred years.

The performance on Thursday 16th May is exclusive to the Women's Institute.

Tickets are now on sale to the general public for the performances on Friday and Saturday 17th and 18th May. Tickets cost £16 and include a two-course meal. There will not be a bar so please bring your own drinks and glasses. Contact Pam on 01525 404573 or Mike on 07557 670703



There will be plenty of opportunities to sing along or else to sit back and enjoy the entertainment and the included two course meal. Songs will range from old-time variety favourites to modern musicals and have been selected by our director Shirley Hale with choreography by Carol Wallman. Our pianist will be Brian Caves.



Annual General Meeting

The Society's Annual General Meeting was held on Thursday 7th March.

Our chairman, Colin Jones, recapped the events of the last year covering the spring concert, the annual dinner, two jumble sales, rehearsals for and production of Ruddigore and the concert at St James's Church in Little Paxton.

The Treasurer, Mike Cocke, presented the accounts which showed that, as with most of our November productions, we made a loss on Ruddigore. For the year as a whole there was also a negative balance but smaller than that in the previous year. Mike thanked John Daniels for auditing the accounts.

Colin explained the proposed amendments to the constitution and membership subscriptions. At present the AGM must be held before the end of March which means that it falls in the middle of rehearsals for the spring concert. The proposal was to move the AGM and, therefore, the subscription year so that they come between the spring concert and the beginning of rehearsals for the November production. At the same time the financial year will move to end in March rather than January. The proposal was agreed by the members present. Also agreed was the removal of the requirement that anyone auditioning for the November production must be a paid-up member of the Society, but the committee reserves the right to make a discretionary charge for auditionees.



The choice of production for November 2020 was confirmed as The Yeomen Of The Guard and there was discussion regarding possible changes to the style and/or venue of the spring concert and of concerts in general.

The election of officers returned a full committee for the first time in many years:

Chairman - Colin Jones

Deputy Chairman - John Epton

Treasurer and Business Manager - Mike Cocke

Secretary - Hazel Daniels

Publicity Officers - Wendy Field and Carol Wallman

Chairman of the Social Committee - Pam Massey

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

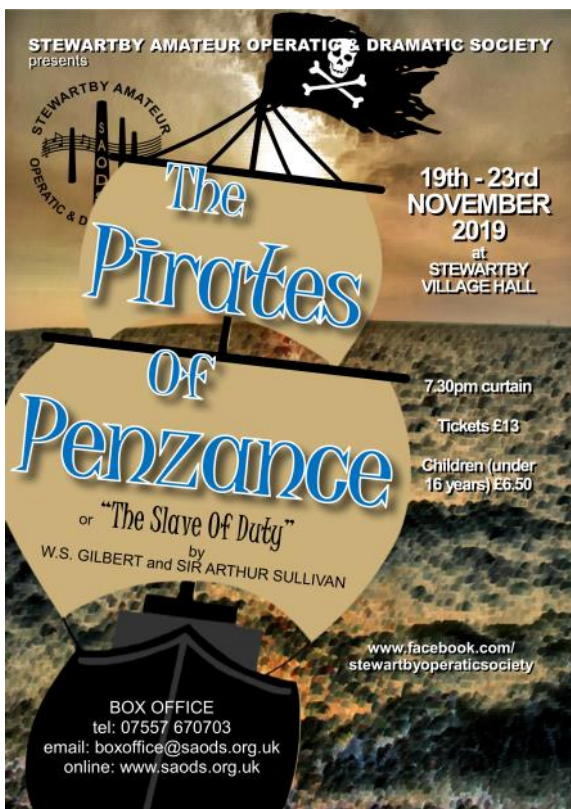
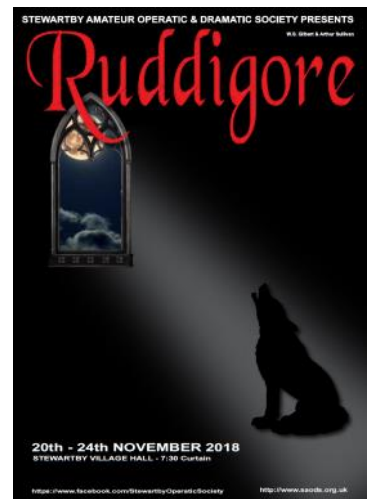
Other items discussed included the use of Stewartby Village Hall, publicity and the recruitment of new (and young) members.

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

*the
committee*

Ruddigore 2018

Our production of Ruddigore last November was well received by the NODA rep: his report can be seen by [visiting our website](#). We have been nominated for an award in the technical categories for scenery. Our scenic artists John and Hazel Daniels will go to the awards ceremony in May.



November 2019

Our production in November 2019 will be Gilbert and Sullivan's ever popular The Pirates of Penzance, directed by Wendy Field and under the musical direction of Alana Thackray.

There will be a singalong on Thursday 30th May with rehearsal workshops on Monday 3rd, Thursday 6th and Monday 10th June. Auditions will take place on Thursday 13th June. All of these will be at Stewartby United Church Hall.

Audition pieces will be posted on the Stewartby Operatic website www.saods.org.uk. Auditionees are required to attend at least two of the three workshop rehearsals in June.

London Marathon

Carol Urwin will be running in this year's London Marathon on Sunday 28th April. She has been busy raising money for Bedford Hospitals Charity and many individuals have donated to this great cause. Stewartby Operatic committee has decided to donate £50 to help Carol's fundraising. If you would like to donate - even if you are reading this after 28th April - you can do so by following [this link](#) to the Virgin Money Giving website.

Parking for Stewartby Village Hall

Sometimes it is difficult to find parking near Stewartby Village Hall. This is recognised by the Trustees of the village hall and they are trying to source additional off-road parking. In the meantime and in discussion with the Trustees we would like to remind members and visitors that there are two car parks available: one on the right-hand side of the village shop (opposite the hall) and the other on the left-hand side of the shop in front of Stewartby Club.



Both of these car parks are quite small, however, so you may have to park on the road. Please do not park on the grass verges: there are new road signs around the hall to remind you of this. Also you must not park so as to obstruct residents' access nor to impede the potential passage of an emergency vehicle. Cones will be deployed around the hall to restrict parking to one side of the road only.

You are reminded that if you park illegally you may receive a penalty fine.

Please also remember to leave the village hall quietly so as not to disturb local residents.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Jumble Sale

February's jumble sale at Houghton Conquest Village Hall was organised, as always, by Pam Massey. Thanks go to her for another splendid occasion which was well attended and which raised the magnificent sum of £370 for Society funds.

The next jumble sale will be in October.



Subscriptions

Following the AGM subscriptions become due. As the subscription year has been extended, as discussed at the AGM, covering the period from 7th March 2019 to 31st May 2020 the subscriptions have also been “extended”. For this year only the subscription has been raised to £49 for Singing or Acting Members and to £12 for Associate Members. After next year’s AGM, unless the AGM decides otherwise, the subscriptions will revert to £40 for Singing or Acting Members and to £10 for Associate Members to reflect the return to a 12 month subscription year.

subscriptions

Coming Soon

In fact, coming very soon is the [Upwell Gilbert and Sullivan Society’s](#) production of Iolanthe at Outwell Methodist Church from Thursday 11th to Saturday 13th April.



Cosi Fan Tutte
Women are like that

Fully staged
opera in
English

Thursday 9 May
7pm
Stewartby Village Hall
£25 (£22 seniors, £15 under 18)
from www.feliciopera.com or 07712 530550

Retiring collection to Breast Cancer Care

There is not quite such a rush to get tickets for Felici’s staging of Cosi Fan Tutte at Stewartby Village Hall.



By arrangement with Chester Music Ltd
trading as G.Schirmer on behalf of G.Schirmer inc.
Music by W.A.Mozart, Libretto by Lorenzo da Ponte
Translated by Ruth and Thomas Martin



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Information about Stewartby Operatic Society can be found at our web site at www.saods.org.uk and on Facebook at www.facebook.com/stewartbyoperatic. Queries about tickets should be sent to boxoffice@saods.org.uk. Any other queries should be sent to information@saods.org.uk.

