



# Newsletter

## Spring (2nd)

### 2020

**Welcome** to our second spring 2020 newsletter, keeping you in touch with what's happening at Stewartby Amateur Operatic and Dramatic Society and our friends in other societies.

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#### **Coronavirus**

As you will all be aware there is nothing going on at the moment in the world of amateur or professional theatre. All performances by local societies have been cancelled or postponed. The timing of the shutdown hit some societies hard with Putteridge Bury (Trial by Jury and The Sorcerer), Wilstead Players (The Wizard of Oz), Upwell G&S Society (Trial by Jury and HMS Pinafore) and VAMPS (Chicago) all in the final runs of rehearsals but unable to put on the shows. It is to be hoped that, at the appropriate time, everyone will be able to pick up where they left off and pursue the old adage "the show must go on".

In the mean time, read on for news of and from members and friends.

If anyone would like to contribute to the next newsletter please email

[stewartbyoperatic@saods.org.uk](mailto:stewartbyoperatic@saods.org.uk).



image from [bbc.co.uk](http://bbc.co.uk)

## Greetings from Carol Wallman

Following Margaret's fabulous contribution [previous newsletter and another one, below] might I suggest that members and friends might like to write their own songs, sketches or even operettas!!!

We might end up with amazing material for future productions.

Love to all and keep well.

## Greetings from Margaret Snape

I am sitting in my soon to be old home in Woburn as we are finally exchanging and surveyor doing the obligatory survey. Only been 8 months since we started this palaver – so sorry to hear all performances are cancelled. This gives me time for another ditty. Hope you're staying safe. Apologies to G&S and The Grand Duke and sausage rolls everywhere – sorry, that should be anywhere!

Devoid of social interaction  
Do not waver – not a fraction  
But I have some satisfaction  
Yes I've got a toilet roll!  
*Yes she's got a toilet roll, a toilet roll.*

Now I like a tidy larder  
Buying food is getting harder  
But it doesn't damp my ardour  
I've another toilet roll!  
*She's another, yes another toilet roll.*

There's no bread, we're short of pasta  
Beans are going even faster  
It must end – it really has'ter  
But I've got my toilet roll!  
*Yes she's got her toilet roll, her toilet roll.*

Much love

Margaret x

They should give more information  
Of the shortage situation  
To save the queueing of the nation  
As we stand as kindred souls  
*As we stand yes as we stand as kindred souls*

Now things are really getting chronic  
I'll resort to gin and tonic  
Listen to the Philharmonic  
You can keep your toilet roll  
*You can keep yes you can keep your toilet roll!*



## Greetings from Mollie Foster

I have been speaking to Pam Massey and Val Lowe so I have been keeping up to date. We came home from our cruise on 16th March and could hardly believe how quickly things were changing. We were living in our own peaceful little bubble at sea, so it was quite a shock!

We watched the TV last night and clapped to ourselves, as there are very few people living nearby to hear. Lets hope that things will soon improve. In the meantime take care and keep well.

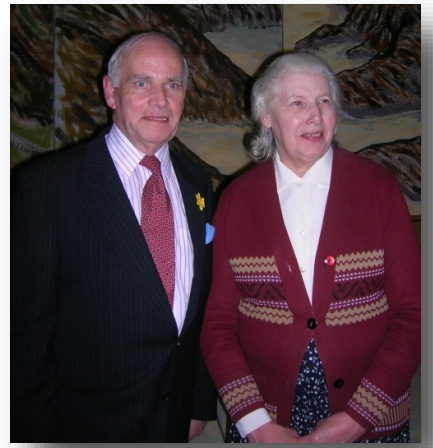
Best wishes,

Mollie

## News

The death has been announced of Hazel Kentsbeer (in the photo with the late chairman of the Society, Roger). She died on 25th March. In compliance with the restrictions in force due to the coronavirus emergency the funeral will be limited to a small number of family and friends. It is hoped, however, that there will be a service of thanksgiving later in the year for Hazel's life.

Our thoughts and prayers are with those who were close to Hazel.



## News from Pam Massey

Pam has been in touch with our Society President. Lady Skeet had been at a function in Flitwick with Nadine Dorries MP shortly before Mrs Dorries became ill with symptoms of the coronavirus. Lady Skeet has not been ill but she is now out of isolation and in good health.

## News of Pam Massey

Pam is fed up! As a very active and very social person she is not enjoying home confinement. She is getting through the days by trying to establish a routine involving some exercise (including walking round and round her chair at home), watching afternoon dramas on tv, going out for walks and starting off the days by getting out of bed later.

## Greetings from Alana Thackray

I am still working at Cambridge as I am a virologist and I seem to have a lot to do (strangely). It is very odd here at the moment as it is so quiet. Nice to get in by car though as very little traffic (for a change).

The University is in lock down apart from "essential work" and so all the students have been sent home (as much as possible) or told to stay away from the labs.

Anyway....do take care and hopefully see you at some point.

With love, Alana xxx

## Greetings from Wendy Field

I do hope you are keeping well and obeying the lockdown instructions, it is so very hard isn't it? We are both okay and lucky to have an amazing son and daughter-in-law living in Cranfield who are keeping us well supplied with essential food etc.

I started this self isolation/lockdown with all good intentions to exercise and catch up with household tasks; well the exercise isn't too bad, I get out for a walk most days and do some indoor stretches etc, but I have to admit that I sometimes lose my way and get a bit aimless.

I wish everyone in the society well and so look forward to when we can all meet up again.

Wendy x

## A Little Cryptic Puzzle

Rearrange a lord, a female sheep, Prime Minister Heath, a foot digit, an arm or a leg and a short form of a fingerless glove to get a G&S operetta. (*Solution on the last page*)

## Greetings from Susan Wells

Hello Everyone.

I hope you are all well and keeping busy. I am listening to Classic FM at the moment and wishing I could play the piano, to quote Morecambe & Wise, "...like what I am hearing!"

Well having taken care of all the boring chores like cleaning windows, showers and the like, I decided to start a fitness regime and try the 10-minute cardio workout that can be found on the NHS website. Steph, the trainer, is there to "help you move more" and says that if you haven't exercised for a while "like Phil", pointing to an older man, we will begin slowly. I started off quite well! Marching on the spot was really easy and left me feeling like I was Wootton's answer to the Green Goddess. I was keen to carry on! The next exercise was "kneeling to standing", alternating on each leg. Oh dear! (Or words to that effect.) All I can say is that I was very glad the arm chair was nearby to help me get up! Not to be beaten though, I carried on with my "power punches", "squats", "star jumps" (I didn't bother with the jumping bit), "hamstring curls" (my favourite) and "Russian twists". This was to "work your core". Which I am sure would have been very beneficial, if only I could have found mine! I did try to carry on to the end but Phil, the older man, began to annoy me. He was smiling the whole way through and seemed to be taking it all in his stride quite well. When Steph asked him if he was ok at the end of the session, he wasn't even out of breath! So that was me done – I tried. At that point the kettle went on and the M&S carrot cake muffin was a delight. Tomorrow is another day and I will aim to be as good as dear 'old' Phil.

I came across this little gem that never fails to put a smile on my face – hope it puts one on yours too? It's Elaine Paige on her Radio 2 show (link <https://youtu.be/0f2nn2sVGlw> )

Stay safe.

Susan

## A Little Cryptic Puzzle Solution

a lord = peer

a female sheep = ewe

PM Heath = Ted

a foot digit = toe

an arm or a leg = limb

fingerless glove = mit (short for mitten)

Rearrange = ewe, toe, peer, limb, mit, Ted

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