



Newsletter

Spring (3rd)

2020

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

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.

Coronavirus and the Annual General Meeting

With lockdown still in force and social distancing measures likely to be in place for several more months it seems increasingly unlikely that Stewartby Operatic, nor any other group, is going to be able to rehearse or perform any time soon. It has not been possible to meet as a committee either but recently we dragged ourselves into the 21st century and had a group Zoom meeting. It was not the same as being there in a room together but it worked! The committee decided, therefore, that the online platform will be used at the AGM on Thursday 21st May. There is more news of the AGM on page 2.

In the mean time, read on for news of and from members and friends and more adaptations of songs from musical theatre.

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

stewartbyoperatic@saods.org.uk.



**I'M JOINING THE NATION IN SAYING
THANKS TO OUR KEY WORKERS
EVERY THURSDAY AT 8PM**

Looking Ahead in 2020

After much discussion and in consideration of the social distancing and other measures in force for the foreseeable future the Committee have decided to cancel the planned production of The Gondoliers in November 2020.

The Committee hopes and is planning for rehearsals to recommence in or after September 2020. Much depends on the situation at the time but the intention is to sing through some known pieces, to learn some new ones and to build up a repertoire for use in concerts in the future including, possibly, a concert in November 2020.

Greetings from Margaret Snape

Please find my latest offering, in the mode of “A Policeman’s Lot”.

When a fella’s stuck at home in isolation and he cannot go outside to socialise
He must seek to improve mental stimulation to keep his brain and body healthy wise.

So he starts with TV workouts – oh disaster. He’s pulled more muscles than he knew he had.
So now he turns to things he wants to master like all the DIY jobs that went bad.

*Aah, when you’re stuck in isolation and it’s trying,
You have to make the best of it, not moan.*

The weather’s nice he thinks he’ll clear the gutter but the ladder in the shed he cannot find.
But he has to scramble over all the clutter to do a task that he has on his mind.

Now the sunshine it has faded into twilight. There are knockings and a-banging from within.
Some expletives emanating until midnight then the door flings open – he’s there with a grin.

*Aah, when you’re stuck in isolation and it’s trying,
You have to make the best of it, not moan.*

In one hand he has a drill and in the other
A pint of Guinness held up to his lips.
He’s so proud of his achievement like no other,
He toasts himself with tiny little sips.

‘Well I found the ladder but it was in pieces.
I tried my best to mend it, so I did.
Until isolation hopefully decreases I’ll stick to the
home schooling with the kids!’

Aah, when you’re stuck in isolation and it’s trying, you have to make the best of it, not moan.



Another Musical Variation by the [English National Opera](#) (click on the link)

Stewartby Operatic Society Annual General Meeting

Our AGM will take place online, using Zoom, on Thursday 21st May at 8.15pm, immediately following the weekly Clap For Carers at 8pm.

Members will receive formal notification of and other papers for the AGM in the next few days via email where possible or by post.



Greetings from Peter Davis

Hello fellow members of the Stewartby team :)

I'm glad that Alana is on the case, its nice to know someone who knows her SARS from her Ebola. Apparently, we all need a dose of vitamin D so get out in the sunshine and enjoy nature's good bits while keeping healthy.

My own personal theory is that we should all be hanging upside down just like bats do when we are not flying about.

I cycled by Stewartby the other day. I thought that I would pay a visit to Gas House Lane in Amptill, but I only got as far as the Chequers in Millbrook when my body told me it was time to go home :(so I am trying to do a bit more cycling to get back my puff.

Just before the lockdown it was the Beds Music Festival, which I have entered now for many years.

For the first time I did a duet and it was with the inimitable Charles Mills. We sang 'Excelsior!', which Charles had introduced me to a couple of years ago when we sang it at the annual dinner. As I mentioned to Charles afterwards I would have given a 10 for his performance and 8.5 for mine. We got a great reception to our turn. After that I won three more cups and came second in the other two classes that I had entered. During the evening session one of the festival helpers was our own Mike Cocke giving of his time freely and for free, what a star he is. I was asked to sing at the Gala performance on the final night.

I look forward to when we can get back together and produce that wonderful magic we make.

Peter

Greetings from Carol Wallman

Dear members and friends.

I hope you are all staying well and positive.

I am currently fundraising for [Bedford Hospitals Charity and Friends: The Bedford Big Thank You](#) - a campaign which is supporting our local NHS front line workers at the hospital.

I am making a range of drop earrings and wondering if any members would like some in exchange for a donation to the hospital's fund.

These photos show some of my designs.

I can make short medium and long in a range of colours. All have sterling silver hooks.

If at all interested contact me on pcwallmandance@hotmail.co.uk.

Every little helps. We've raised about £100 so far.

Looking forward to hearing from you.

Carol



Greetings from Jenny Hall

Hi everyone,

So great to hear from some of you and what you are up to and congratulations to Margaret for her poetic prowess. Bill and I have been keeping very busy doing the many jobs that have been shelved for far too long and it has been quite satisfying to see the tidy cupboards and other bits and bobs done too. The lovely weather of course has called us to do a good deal of gardening too which I love! We too are doing daily exercises and take the dogs out each afternoon across the fields. Our neighbour has a year old cocker spaniel and it is a real joy to see her bounding through the long grass. Just wish I had a tenth of her energy! Our little dog is almost nine now so her walk is a much more sedate one but she loves it all the same. We went out to clap the NHS last Thursday and Wendy and I had a chat across the road as cars went hurtling by with a few friendly toots! This is a really great way to keep in touch but do hope we can all meet again soon. Best wishes to all. Keep safe.

Jenny.

I wrote this which can be sung to the tune of how can love survive from the Sound of Music!

Two older folks in the house are we,
Hopefully not till Eternity!
Roll on the day when we'll be free
Till then, we'll survive

No trips abroad for holidays,
Walks on the fields, just once a day,
No table tennis for us to play,
But we must survive

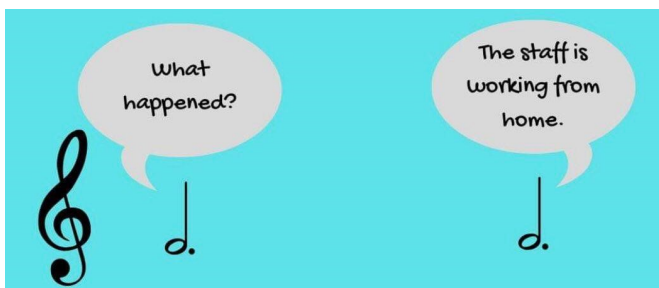
Jobs left undone for many a year,
Are now being tackled, without a tear,
All done and dusted and so we cheer,
And hopefully survive.

Arguments now - there are none,
As all the jobs have now been done!
What a victory we have won,
So we will survive.

Can't even shop to buy some food,
Neighbours and rallies are oh so good,
Caring and shopping, so they could
Help us to survive.

Stay in. Stay safe, is what they say
And to be sure we must obey,
So in the house we'll surely stay,
That's how we'll survive!

You've Got To Laugh



click on the links to see these video clips

[an exercise video](#)

[opportunity knocks](#)

[gardener's world](#)

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