



# Newsletter

## Spring

## 2020

**Welcome** to our 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

It was with regret but also a certain amount of inevitability that the decision was taken in early March to cancel the two charity concerts planned for April and our Spring Concert planned for May. We had hoped to continue to meet socially and to enjoy singing together but events overtook us.

We will reappraise the situation at the beginning of May and keep you informed.

If any members or friends become ill please follow the official guidelines ([see BBC News](#)).

It is to be hoped that this newsletter will help to keep the Stewartby Operatic Society spirit going and to help members and friends to stay part of the Society family. If anyone would like to contribute to the next newsletter (early next month) please email

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



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

## Pirates of Penzance, November 2019

Regrettably, there is no NODA review of this show because the NODA representative was taken ill at the performance on Saturday night and had to go home. This also means that we missed out on any nominations for NODA awards. Needless to say, we are confident that the show was so good that we would have won everything!



photos by Gary Chester

Our business manager, Mike Cocke, produced some interesting statistics about the show.

- 427 tickets were sold out of a maximum of 650 for the five performances, nearly 66%
- the most popular night was Friday when 83% of seats were occupied
- approximately 40% of tickets were sold online, a big increase on last year
- the show made a loss of several hundred pounds, an improvement on last year!



## Greetings from Carol Wallman

Hello Stewartby friends, how are you all getting on? I do hope you are all well and happy and are escaping the dreaded virus.

It's a great pity that we are not able to meet and I'm sure you will miss the camaraderie and rehearsing as much as I do. I'm sure it will make us even more enthusiastic and appreciative when we're able to get back together, hopefully soon after the summer. I'm sure you'll all be practising your dance moves every day!!!!

What are you doing with your enforced leisure and isolation?

Roger and I are getting out into the fresh air as much as possible walking in the local woods (all of us walkers are now adept at giving each other a wide berth) and even doing Pilates to keep us fit and fight the flab.

I've even persuaded him to decorate the breakfast room - he must be desperate for something to do!

It's amazing how everything has shut down isn't it. What a transformation within one week! In Bedfordshire we seem to be getting off lightly so do keep well and keep in touch.

Looking forward to hearing from you soon. Love and best wishes,

Carol x



## Greetings from Pam Rogers

Hello Everyone. Hope everyone is as good as can be expected ???? I'm missing you all dreadfully and so disappointed that things have been cancelled - absolutely everything is stopped, so I've had to resort to Skype for piano lessons, which though not as good as having the person, is better than nothing.



Some of you know that Mick and I lost our dog, Tara, at the end of September and you've been asking about another one. Well, on Sunday (4 days ago), we actually went to collect our new friend - a rescue Rottweiler, aged about 5, whose owner had died. Having been to see her the week before, we weren't looking forward to going again - the M25 not being my favourite road. However, circumstances being what they are, there wasn't a lot of traffic and we had good journeys to and from Hockley (deepest Essex !!).

The cats are not impressed, but Mick and I have been out walking in the mornings again and without the nearby by-pass traffic noise, it is lovely and quiet too - so, hopefully back to having some exercise, so sadly neglected.

Look forward to seeing you all sometime - and I've promised myself that I'll be the best pianist and 'cello player in Henlow as I do intend doing some playing !!

Loads of love

Pam

## Greetings from Martin Wells

I am sure you are right in cancelling rehearsals for the time being; I was about to tell Hazel that Upwell's performances have also been postponed until some new date can be agreed - we hoped for the Autumn or late Autumn, as we were well into Trial and Pinafore rehearsals.

Lots of us come into the group of 70+ or vulnerable, and as someone just said to me " all we can do is to be sensible".

I shall be quite isolated for some time, and as to what I might do, as a suggestion to anyone else, is to look through our collection of books, CDs etc, that many of us have, and take the opportunity to read/listen to things we haven't done previously in ages. Going with that might be tidying the house properly, throwing out what we really don't need any more, organising what we do etc.

Maybe that will help!

Sincerely, and to everyone, keep well.

Martin

## Jumble Sale



Pam Massey managed to work her magic again. In March, just before everything was shut down as a result of the coronavirus, she masterminded another of her jumble sales. There was the usual queue at the door eager to get in to rummage through the carefully arranged displays of clothes, shoes, bags, toys, jewellery, linens, books, crockery and quite a lot of “miscellaneous” items, to buy raffle tickets and to enjoy a cup of tea and a piece of cake.

Earlier in the day the jumble sale was featured on BBC Three Counties radio as the treasure at the end of their Saturday morning programme “Treasure Quest”.

At the end of the day the jumble sale raised a very welcome £321 for the Society. Thanks to Pam and all her helpers for their hard work.

## From Margaret Snape

With apologies to G&S and Sir Joseph Porter, please see a little song 'wot I wrote'.

We're told that we should isolate  
To save us from a grisly fate  
I've anti-bac to wipe the floors  
And applied it to the handles on interior  
doors

...chorus

I've wiped and wiped 'til they're all free  
Of the virus known as Covid19 to me

....chorus

I think I've stripped the paint as well  
But I'm happy that it's virus free so what the  
hell

The cat is giving me a wary look  
Of this antiseptic task I undertook

....chorus

I'm not so keen on this housework lark  
It's far too much let me remark

....chorus

I've started baking and my freezer's full  
The toilet rolls are hidden so that's wonderful  
You're asking me so what is next  
Well those of you who know me won't be  
perplexed

.....chorus

There comes a time for the work to cease  
I'm now approaching gin with flawless ease

.....chorus

I feel it's time to contemplate  
How well I'm spending time to isolate  
We can't get out to meet and sing  
So email has to be the next best thing

.....chorus

I hope we all survive this test  
And by way of song I'm wishing you the very  
best.

.....chorus

Margaret

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

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