



Newsletter

Summer

2020

Welcome to our summer 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.

Latest News

Coronavirus is still with us and, despite, or because of, the easing of lockdown measures, looks likely to be with us for some time yet. The Society's committee met recently (via Zoom) and confirmed the tentative arrangements already in place for the rest of this year. Our November performance has been cancelled. It is hoped that members will be able to get together again from September but the ban on singing will severely restrict what is possible (the act of singing increases the exhalation of water droplets which may increase the spread of coronavirus). The plan is to go ahead with performances in 2021 (our 70th anniversary year) with a concert in spring and The Mikado in November.

Our Treasurer, Mike Cocke, reported to the committee that our financial status is healthy. We are fortunate that we have no expenses whilst we are not rehearsing or performing.

Many thanks to those who have contributed to this edition of the newsletter. If you would like to send in something for the next newsletter please email your text(s) and /or image(s) to stewartbyoperatic@saods.org.uk.



image from bbc.co.uk

Greetings from Mollie Foster

Hi everyone. It is so long since we have met, in fact for me it is almost 7 months. After Pirates and some Christmas jollies, Tom and I went on a cruise with Fred Olsen to the Caribbean for the Christmas celebrations, followed by a long voyage to South America. We didn't watch the American news on board for obvious reasons and the daily bulletin didn't enlighten us at all. We began to be a little suspicious when we missed out the Spanish port before docking in Southampton. Also the Cruise Director on the last night looked a little sheepish when he wished us luck for the future. We didn't realise at the time that it was Balmoral's last cruise! Braemar, the sister ship, was stuck in Barbados for sometime as they had covid on board, so we were very lucky. As far as I know all the ships are now safely sailing around the Firth of Forth.



When we arrived home on 16th March we realised all was not well, and of course on 23rd March this was confirmed. I did manage a trip to the hairdressers on the Saturday, but I was rather surprised when I was told that they probably wouldn't be open the following week!

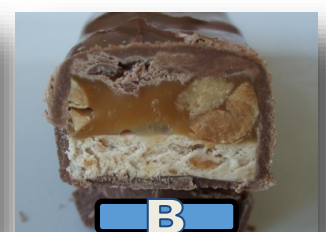
Since then what have I done? Not a lot! My ball gowns are still waiting to go to the cleaners! Luckily we live in the country side, away from civilisation, so I have busied myself gardening, walking the neighbour's old dog called Rusty in the afternoons (a good name for me too I think), and trying to play catch up with my holiday scrap book. I have been retyping my cookery book, as the recipes looked as though they had been mixed up with the ingredients, and thinking of writing a history of Clapham, which I abandoned some years ago. Luckily my granddaughter Phillipa lives in and runs the cattery next door to us, and helps with the B & B (which is defunct), and so we spend an hour or two every morning chatting about everything. My daughter and family live in Somerset so I haven't seen her since last November, and the two sons and grandchildren are in Canada so unfortunately it is going to be some time before we can meet.

One of the positive outcomes is that I have learned to use Zoom and read the lesson on line for church a couple of weeks ago. It seemed rather weird. Also our cat Pandie keeps us amused as she has found a nest of field mice and now half of them are in the house. We are now playing "hunt the mouse!" Tom is amusing himself feeding the crows, so we now have a "murder" of crows in the garden as well!

I can't wait for life to be back to normal and I miss all my friends. I am sure we will all meet again some sunny day.

Choccy Quiz

Can you identify the chocolate bars from these pictures (more to follow)? Find the answers at the bottom of the last page.



Greetings from Colin Jones

Previous newsletters have showcased the skills of our members and friends in re-writing the lyrics of songs so I thought that I would have a go as well. Having played the Major-General in last November's "Pirates" I felt that I had just cause in adapting his famous song.

I am the very model of a modern politician. I
Have much less common sense than I have levels of ambition. I
Have dreams to get the highest job, to work and live at Number 10.
I've only got to show my rivals are not smart but dummer, then.
My job was good but I was sacked - I used to work at Morrison
But that's no cause for worry: see, they voted dear old Boris in.
I'll get some good advisers who are bright and know a thing or two
Who'll get me to the job without a cv or an interview.

I know the job is hard, you don't make friends, the list is growing all
The time of those who wish to twist the knife and yet still knowing all
This information vegetable, animal and mineral
I'm still a politician who would like to be Prime Ministeral.

I don't know very much about our hist'ry or economy
Or politics or industry or health care or agronomy.
I didn't go to Eton, just my local comprehensive school.
I wasn't very clever; all my teachers said "a pensive fool".
When asked a tricky question I don't worry much or fluster. I
Just burble on, avoid the trap, I dodge it like a custard pie.
I say some words that don't mean much until the tangle all undoes.
It always works - a well-known plan - it's just what Mr Johnson does.

I've got the country's good at heart, my policies have deep insight.
I'll talk to any carrot, porcupine or lump of anthracite.
In short in matters vegetable, animal and mineral
I am a politician who would like to be Prime Ministeral.

Choccy Quiz part 2

Can you identify the chocolate bars from these pictures?



You can find around 300 parodies of Gilbert and Sullivan songs at [Am I Right.com](http://AmIRight.com), most of which seem to be based on The Major General's Song from the Pirates Of Penzance, including "A Musician's Lot Is Not A Happy One" (A Policeman's Lot), "Eat A Fajita, Burrito, Tortilla" (Dance A Cachuca), "I Am A Tired Runner In A Super-Ultra-Marathon" (I Am The Very Model) and "Nuggets, Quorn Nuggets" (Tit Willow).

Please note that the Society accepts no responsibility for the content of other web sites.

Thanks to Margaret Snape for contributing these quotes from a time when insults had class.

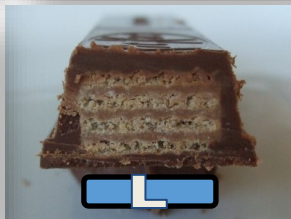
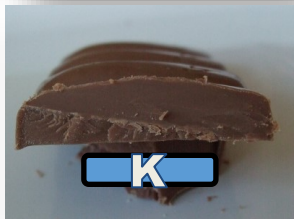
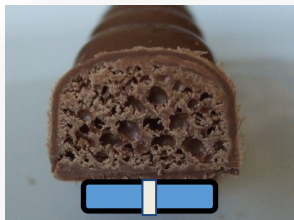
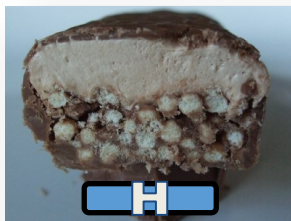
***"I didn't attend the funeral, but I sent a nice letter saying I approved of it."* - Mark Twain**

***"He has no enemies, but is intensely disliked by his friends."* - Oscar Wilde**

***"I've had a perfectly wonderful evening. But I'm afraid this wasn't it."* - Groucho Marx**

Choccy Quiz part 3

Can you identify the chocolate bars from these pictures?



Things To Do

The WI is offering online learning courses. These courses are open to everyone, not just ladies or Women's Institute members. Courses are bookable on their website at a cost of £5 each session. Go to

<https://www.denman.org.uk/whats-on/>

More Insults

"He has all the virtues I dislike and none of the vices I admire." - Winston Churchill

"Thank you for sending me a copy of your book; I'll waste no time reading it." - Moses Hadas

"Some cause happiness wherever they go; others, whenever they go." - Oscar Wilde

"I enclose two tickets to the first night of my new play; bring a friend, if you have one."

- George Bernard Shaw to Winston Churchill

"Cannot possibly attend first night, will attend second... if there is one."

- Winston Churchill, in response

Choccy Quiz Answers

A: Cadbury Boost B: Snickers C: Twirl D: Cadbury's Dairy Milk E: Mars F: Wispa G: Fry's Turkish Delight H: Double Decker I: Aero J: Twix K: Galaxy L: Kit Kat (Chunky)

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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/stewartbyoperaticsociety. Queries about tickets should be sent to boxoffice@saods.org.uk. Any other queries should be sent to information@saods.org.uk.

Putteridge Bury Gilbert & Sullivan Society

