



Newsletter Summer 2020 number 2

Welcome to our second 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.

Coronavirus

The virus is still with us, we are all getting used to wearing face coverings and, hopefully, we are learning to get on with our lives despite the restrictions in force. Regrettably, this nasty virus is continuing to ruin any efforts and plans we might have to reconvene Stewartby Operatic Society.

Although some professional companies are planning performances for the coming months there is still no sign that

amateur groups will be able to rehearse or perform, especially not singing groups. In the mean time this newsletter is one way for members and friends to keep in touch and, as you will read in Mike Cocke's message on the next page, be inspired to carry on singing.

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.

Gilbert and Sullivan Slightly Cryptic Quiz part 1 (solutions on the last page)

Rearrange your answers to the following clues to find a G&S operetta:

your listening organs; a job or hoodlum; unemployment benefit; not off



Greetings from Mike Cocke

At Stewartby Operatic, we have been hit hard by the lockdown, because we had to stop rehearsing after 12th March, and as I write this at the end of June, we don't yet know when we can gather again to sing some more G&S together. As a Society, we really thrive on coming together to meet and rehearse as a choir, and we are a great example of where the combined choir is much more than the sum of its parts. This is why trying to rehearse online from home wouldn't really work for us, and we will thrive again when we can meet once more as a Society.

However, there are some excellent examples of British entrepreneurship, where people have done the best they can using the internet, and live streaming on YouTube, which has at least kept people singing - no one should go a whole day without singing something.

Gareth Malone started The Great British Home Chorus which initially was broadcast live 5 evenings a week. Gareth does warm ups, and then teaches a song which usually is in parts SATB, and he has had an audience typically of 1,500 people. Some of the songs have then been chosen for the choristers all based from home of course, to record in video against a backing track, and Gareth and his team then compile all the video



submissions into a full choir. It's fun to be part of and the end result is satisfying, even if recording your part in video is a bit nerve-racking. One of the warm up songs is a round called Belle Mama, and I have included a link to [a recording I made to teach you the song](#) and then [a second recording as a round](#), so you can join in and enjoy the harmonies.



STAY AT HOME CHOIR

Then there is the Stay At Home Choir, run by Tori Longdon, and they run projects, again streaming on YouTube, which you sign up for and the project works on and teaches you a classical work. As with The Great British Home Chorus, the choristers are invited to record their part on video and submit it to be compiled by the Stay At Home Choir team to make a finished choral work. They are currently rehearsing The Armed Man by Karl Jenkins.

There is also the Self-Isolation Choir, which is the brain child of Mark Strachan, and is run by their musical director Ben England. They have just finished a major project learning and then performing the whole of Handel's Messiah using professional musicians and soloists and many hundreds of home based choristers, with all the teaching sessions live streamed on YouTube and then saved there for people to go back to and practise. The Self-Isolation Choir is continuing with its Summer School and have recently learnt and sung 7 pieces by John Rutter. They will be doing Vivaldi's Gloria in August and starting Mendelssohn's Elijah in September.



So, with all this innovation going on, everyone should be able to sing something every day, which I thoroughly recommend, and you can start with Belle Mama.

Keep your voice in good shape and we can look forward to some more Tarantara's when we are together again hopefully in the autumn.

Greetings from Hazel and John Daniels

John and I have just spent three weeks in France - we thought we would only come back after the quarantine had finished.

I know it's been hot here in the UK, but, my, it was 37 degrees one day over there. I hid away in the cool house and let John work outside in the shady spots he could find of the new holiday house he is building. Our eldest son, Martin, and his family live close by so it was nice to see them all - social distancing, of course, as much as was possible.

Anyway, we felt a bit safer in rural France (it is about an hour's drive from the Pyrenees) as the numbers of Covid have been considerably much lower than here. They are more organised to eat and drink out of doors and the weather was ideal for it of course. It's not too bad here in the UK at present but what will happen when only the indoors is suitable for that - I'm not sure how I would cope!!

Hope you all have your masks at the ready to go shopping. Let's hope we may meet up sooner rather than later. Miss seeing you all and hope you are all keeping well and safe.

Best wishes to you all, Hazel

Gilbert and Sullivan Slightly Cryptic Quiz part 2 (solutions on the last page)

Rearrange your answers to the following clues to find a G&S operetta:

a cutting tool; definite article; make a mistake; a knight's title



Greetings from Margaret Snape

I've found a, fantastic mezzo called Liz Ryan online. I was searching for music for Joyce the Librarian, a Peter Skellern song. She's just up my street. Do have a listen if you get the time.

<https://youtu.be/-5ftzeIYAWc>

Someone has brought this to my notice. Dr Evadne Hinge of Hinge and Bracket, the pianist, aka George Logan, sings about coronavirus to a tune you will know. It was written a few



weeks ago - you will notice a few changes in who you may visit etc. Something was said elsewhere about 100th birthday. That is Dr Evadne's 100th birthday. George Logan is only 76, and still singing strongly in his/her contralto voice. I suppose the 100th birthday has taken place, hence the photo of the Queen, which she now sends rather than a telegram. Sadly the other half of Hinge and Bracket, Patrick Fyffe, aka Dame Hilda Bracket, died of cancer in May 2002. He and the duo are much missed. They often sang Gilbert & Sullivan and once appeared in a D'Oyly Carte end of London Season performance. One of them, I think Patrick, had a sister in the D'Oyly Carte at that time. Enjoy.

<https://youtu.be/4NUmQQxvI9s>

Gilbert and Sullivan Slightly Cryptic Quiz part 3 (solutions on the last page)

Rearrange your answers to the following clues to find a G&S operetta:

the 19th letter; challenge; seeing organ; grooms



Gilbert and Sullivan Slightly Cryptic Quiz part 4 (solutions below)

Rearrange your answers to the following clues to find a G&S operetta:

rowing implement; military canteen; dried grass; not on; jewel; thumbtack



Things To Do From Home During Lockdown (click on the images to link to the web sites)



Tour the Houses of Parliament.

Watch short talks to help you gain a deeper understanding of the world.



Explore the Natural History Museum.

Have a look around some of the state rooms at Buckingham Palace.



Learn new skills online with top educators.

Take a virtual stroll around some splendid gardens.



Watch, listen to and learn about a top-class orchestra.

Watch the antics of the animals and keepers at London Zoo.



Go on a virtual tour of the National Gallery.

Tour the world with Google Earth.



Please note that Stewartby Operatic Society cannot accept responsibility for the content of external web sites.

Gilbert and Sullivan Slightly Cryptic Quiz Solutions

Part 4
 rowing implement = *oar*
 military canteen = *mess*
 dried grass = *hay*
 not on = *off*
 jewel = *gem*
 thumbtack = *pin*
 rearranged:
 hay, gem, mess, pin, off, oar
 = HMS Pinafore

Part 3
 the 19th letter = *s*
 challenge = *dare*
 seeing organ = *eye*
 grooms = *prens*
 rearranged:
 prens, s, eye, dare
 = Princess Ida

Part 2
 a cutting tool = *saw*
 definite article = *the*
 make a mistake = *err*
 a knight's title = *sir*
 rearranged:
 the, saw, sir, err
 = The Sorcerer

Part 1
 your listening organs = *ears*
 a job or hoodlum = *thug*
 unemployment benefit = *dole*
 not off = *on*
 rearranged:
 thug, on, dole, ears
 = The Gondoliers

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