



# Newsletter Autumn 2021

**Welcome** to our autumn 2021 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](http://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.

## **It's Good To Be Back!**

Rehearsals have been in full swing since early September in preparation for our November concert titled "It's Good To Be Back". With the disruption to rehearsal schedules in the early part of the year due to coronavirus precautions we took the decision that we could not put on a full production in November but, having returned to singing, we wanted to do something. We decided on a concert on Friday 19th and Saturday 20th November at Stewartby Village Hall. Tickets are priced at £10 for adults and £5 for children and are available to buy online - go to [www.saods.org.uk](http://www.saods.org.uk) and follow the "It's Good To Be Back!" link, or click on the logo above - or through our business manager Mike Cocke on 07557 670703, at [boxoffice@saods.org.uk](mailto:boxoffice@saods.org.uk) or in person at rehearsals. We will be running a licensed bar serving a limited range of drinks. A donation from the proceeds of this concert will be made to charity - see more on this on page 2.

**It's Good  
To Be Back!**

We continue to be careful and to take precautions against spreading Covid-19. At rehearsals we provide hand sanitiser, windows are opened to provide ventilation, seats are distanced and the wearing of masks is encouraged while moving around. Similar measures will be in place at the concert including automatic distancing when you book tickets: the seats either side will be left empty for every block of tickets, or individual ticket, you buy. We hope to see you at the concert. In the meantime please continue to look after yourselves.

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

## Jumble Sale

October's jumble sale at Houghton Conquest Village Hall raised a splendid £408.56. Thanks go to Pam Massey and her helpers for organising, preparing, staging, catering and clearing up the event. Pam is already planning the next jumble sale for March 2022 so be sure to hang on to those unwanted items of clothing and surplus Christmas presents, ready for the call in the new year.

Pam, touched by the recent scenes on television and accounts in the news, expressed a wish that a donation be made to help Afghan refugees. In keeping with her wishes the committee have agreed to donate £200 to Bedfordshire Refugee and Asylum Seeker Support (BRASS). BRASS is a registered charity, based in Bedford, which supports refugees and asylum seekers in Bedfordshire. They provide advice on a range of issues, English language tuition and social activities.



In further support of this charity a donation from the proceeds of the November concert will also be made to BRASS.

To find out more about BRASS click on the BRASS logo, left.



## Helping Charities

The Society needs to raise funds to pay for our expenses, such as the hire of the rehearsal and performance venues, orchestra and rehearsal musicians, costume hire and insurance. This revenue comes from memberships, donations and ticket sales. We also like to support charities and have made donations to the Royal Papworth Hospital Charity, Cancer Research UK, the Royal British Legion, Bedford Hospitals Charity and others in recent years. Another way we have of supporting good causes is to stage a fund-raising concert, as we have done for EVC Uganda and Roxton Church. Coming up we have bookings for concerts at Clophill Methodist Church and Little Paxton Church.

## Stewartby Christmas Fair

Stewartby Operatic Society will be singing Christmas songs and carols at the Stewartby Christmas Fair and switch-on of the Christmas lights on Saturday 27th November at Stewartby Village Hall. The lights are due to be switched on at around 5pm and we will be singing around the Christmas tree straight afterwards.





## The Stewartby Chimneys

On Sunday 26th September the last four of the Stewartby Brickworks' chimneys were demolished. You can see the BBC News report by clicking [this link](#). At one stage there were 167 chimneys in this area. With this demolition marking the end of an era

Peter Davis thought that we ought to be involved. Supported by Jessica Hallett and a number of willing singers a group representing the Society sang Sir Arthur Sullivan's "The Long Day Closes"



## Facebook

As well as this newsletter and our web site Stewartby Operatic Society publicises its events on Facebook. If you haven't found it yet, search for Stewartby Operatic from your own Facebook page. It would help us to spread the word of our activities if members and friends with Facebook

accounts would "like" our page. This will help you to keep in touch with us and to spread our news a little further afield, across the mysterious universe that is the Internet!

## Spring Concert

Our Spring Concert is provisionally booked for Friday and Saturday 6th and 7th May at Stewartby Village Hall. This concert will take the format of pre-Covid times with a two course meal included. If you would like to join us on stage, rehearsals will begin in January 2022. If you would like to join the audience look out for announcements for ticket sales to open.



## Annual Dinner

The Society's annual dinner, celebrating our 70th anniversary, has been booked for 19th March 2022 at Stewartby Village Hall. Watch out for details and more information in future newsletters.



## Wilstead Players

**Sketches,  
skits, and  
musical  
numbers**

**A host of  
comedy  
characters**

**Live  
variety in  
Wilstead**

**WILSTEAD  
VILLAGE HALL,  
COTTON END  
ROAD,  
WILSTEAD,  
MK45 3BX**

### Wilstead Players

The 50th anniversary celebration is entitled "Make 'em Laugh - A Night of Comedy". 9th, 10th and 11th December, bar opens 7pm, curtain up at 7.30pm at Wilstead Village Hall. Tickets available from 24th November.

### Putteridge Bury G&S

Due to unforeseen circumstances, PBGS has had to postpone this event. New dates will be announced in due course.



### LUTON CHORAL SOCIETY

We are singing again!  
and looking for new singers for our  
**150th season**



Come and join us to sing at our Concert:  
*A Christmas Celebration*  
on 11th December

**Manchester Carols** with words by Carol Ann Duffy Christmas choruses from the **Messiah**  
**Vaughan Williams** - Fantasia on Christmas Carols

And a performance of **Haydn's Creation** in April

**Free membership for the first term**

Take a look at our website [www.lutonchoralsociety.org.uk](http://www.lutonchoralsociety.org.uk)  
or phone 01582 579748 for more details



To stop receiving the newsletter please send an email to [stewartbyoperatic@saods.org.uk](mailto:stewartbyoperatic@saods.org.uk) with the word UNSUBSCRIBE as the subject.

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)

Information about Stewartby Operatic Society can be found at our web site at [www.saods.org.uk](http://www.saods.org.uk) and on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/stewartbyoperaticsociety](https://www.facebook.com/stewartbyoperaticsociety). Queries about tickets should be sent to [boxoffice@saods.org.uk](mailto:boxoffice@saods.org.uk). Any other queries should be sent to [information@saods.org.uk](mailto:information@saods.org.uk).

