



Newsletter Christmas 2021



Welcome to our Christmas 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, 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.

visit our website at www.saods.org.uk

It's good to be back!

This time last year we were making plans to recommence rehearsals, unaware of the impending lockdown over Christmas 2020 and beyond and the further six month delay to come. Have times changed? We will have to wait and see. We got there eventually, however. We met for rehearsals in September, October and November, we practised some new tunes and revisited some old favourites and in the space of the last few weeks have put on four performances (see details and photographs on page 2).

Please enjoy reading through the rest of this newsletter which includes news of other groups who have successfully returned to performing. There are also a number of Christmas cracker jokes dotted through these pages - you have been warned!

Look after yourselves and enjoy Christmas and New Year as best you can.

If you would like to contribute to the next newsletter please email your words and/or pictures to

stewartbyoperatic@saods.org.uk.



Christmas Cracker Joke Alert

What do you call a bunch of chess players bragging about their games in a hotel lobby? Chess nuts boasting in an open foyer!

Our first performances for two years

On Friday 19th and Saturday 20th November the Society staged a concert "It's Good To Be Back!" at Stewartby Village Hall. We wanted to make the statement that we are back in business and to show some of what we can do. The programme included a number of Gilbert and Sullivan pieces, including a selection from the rarely performed Princess Ida, as well as items such as In A Monastery Garden, Why We Sing and The Prayer which were new to many members. The concert finale was a rousing rendition of When The Foeman Bares His Steel from The Pirates of Penzance.

We always knew that it was a bit of a gamble to stage a concert in the midst of a pandemic. At the beginning there was uncertainty about the number of members who would be willing to return and there

was no guarantee that there would be an audience. As it turned out the members were keen to sing together again but the audience numbers were a

little disappointing. Ticket sales, bar income and a healthy return from the raffle bolstered the balance sheet but the event made a financial loss. The important point, however, was that we were back, performing together!

The concert was repeated on Saturday 4th December at Clophill Methodist Church with all proceeds going to the church.

On Saturday 27th November a group of members attended the Stewartby Victorian Christmas Fair and Lights Switch-On, singing a mixture of Christmas carols and songs.



Christmas Cracker Joke Alert

What does Santa do when his elves misbehave? He gives them the sack!
What's the most popular Christmas wine? 'But I don't like Brussels sprouts!'

Concert photographs thanks to Bex Badham

Sad News

In recent weeks the deaths have been announced of Mrs C.H. Moule who was one of the patrons of the Society, Chris Kennedy, who many will remember as the supplier of show videos of a few years ago, and of Tom Foster, husband of member Mollie Foster.

At this sad time our thoughts and sympathies are with the families of the deceased.

Coming Next

Rehearsals will start in January, 2022, for our Spring Concert. This will be based on the concert programme for spring 2020 which had to be abandoned due to the coronavirus lockdown, and will be masterminded by Shirley Hale. The concert will take place at Stewartby Village Hall on Friday 6th and Saturday 7th May, 2022. Rehearsals will commence on Thursday 6th January, 2022, at Stewartby United Church Hall at 7.45pm.

The Society's annual dinner, which this year celebrates our 70th anniversary, will be held on Saturday 19th March, 2022.

Our production in November 2022 is going to be Gilbert and Sullivan's The Mikado. The committee decided that the production should have a traditional setting and are looking for a director who will be mindful of and sympathetic to criticisms of this show for its potential to cause offence through possible racial stereotyping. If you are interested in directing our show next year please get in touch.

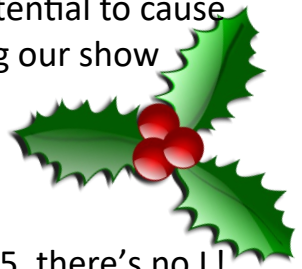


The Mikado



Christmas Cracker Joke Alert

How many letters are in the Christmas alphabet? Only 25, there's no L!



palliative,
neurological
and bereavement
support

Recycle your Christmas tree and help support our care

Let us at Sue Ryder collect and recycle your real Christmas tree in return for a donation to Sue Ryder St John's Hospice.

All collected Christmas trees will be chipped into mulch and reused for our hospice grounds to help the plants and flowers thrive.

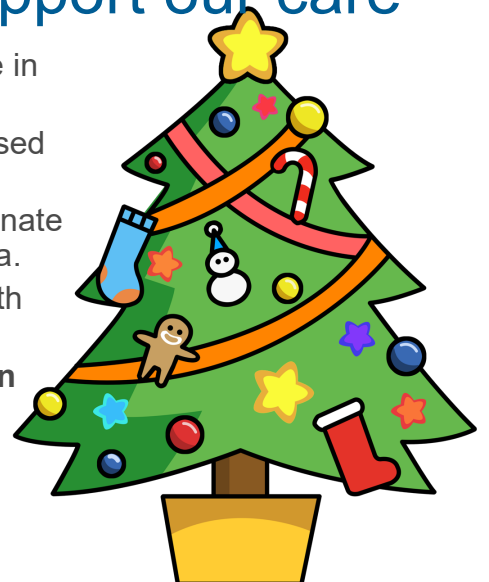
Your kind support will help us continue providing our compassionate end of life care when it matters most for families in the local area.

Every one of your donations will help fill someone's last days with love.

We'll be out and about from 8–10 January 2022, collecting in these postcodes:

MK40, MK41, MK42, MK43, MK44, MK45, SG18 and SG19

For more information and to book a collection please go to our [website](http://www.sue Ryder.org.uk) or call 01767 642412



AMPTHILL
— & DISTRICT —
CHORAL SOCIETY

**CHRISTMAS
CONCERT**

Night of Miracles—John W. Peterson

with festive music and your favourite carols

Musical Director: Alan Childs
Soloists: Lucy Miller-White & Neil Ryden

Monday 13th December, 7.30pm

Parkside Hall, Ampthill

Tickets £10 on the door,
includes a drink and a mince pie

Silverstone

LAP OF LIGHTS

TAKE THE FAMILY ON A MAGICAL CHRISTMAS ADVENTURE!

THE BIG BAND!

Bedford At Quarry Theatre

Christmas

Alice in Wonderland



Performing at Stewartby Village Hall



Sat 11th Dec 7pm

Sun 12th Dec 3pm

Fri 17th Dec 7pm

Sat 18th Dec 7pm

Doors open 30 minutes before



Tickets available from

www.ticketsource.co.uk/flitwick-and-stewartby-productions

Warning: Strobe lighting will be used in this production



Shuttleworth in Lights—A Festive Special
until Sunday 19th December



Christmas Cracker Joke Alert

How does Darth Vader enjoy his
Christmas Turkey? On the dark side!

Who do Santa's helpers call when they're ill?

The National Elf Service!

What do you call a kid who doesn't believe in Santa?

A rebel without a Claus!

To stop receiving the newsletter please send an email to 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

Information about Stewartby Operatic Society can be found at our website at www.saods.org.uk and on Facebook at www.facebook.com/stewartbyoperaticssociety. Queries about tickets should be sent to boxoffice@saods.org.uk. Any other queries should be sent to information@saods.org.uk.

