



# Newsletter Spring (almost)



**Welcome** to our spring 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.

## Coronavirus

So near and yet so far!

We were ready to restart rehearsals. All the paperwork had been completed, the risk assessments had been considered, hand sanitisers had been arranged, socially-distanced seating plans had been prepared and warm clothes had been readied to combat the chill of the well-ventilated rehearsal room. It was not to be, however. We are still ready but we will have to wait a bit longer yet before setting another date for rehearsals to restart. In the meantime please continue to look after yourselves.

If you would like to contribute anything - anything at all - to the next newsletter please send your item and/or picture to [stewartbyoperatic@saods.org.uk](mailto:stewartbyoperatic@saods.org.uk).



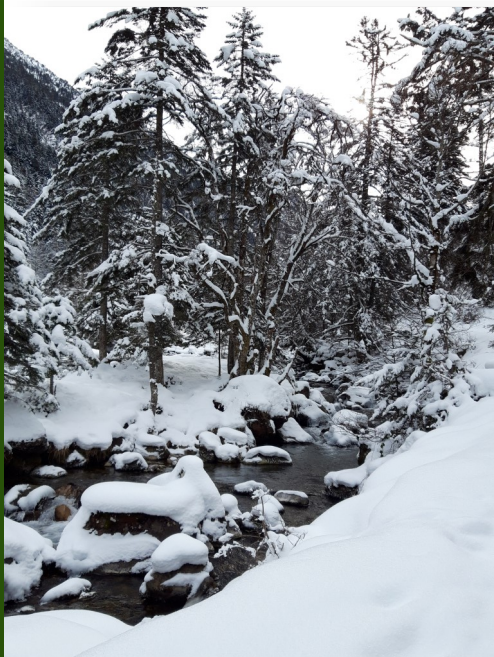
**Thursday 18th February, via Zoom**

Put the date in your calendar - let's face it, there's nothing else in there - and get those little grey cells working. More details on page 3.



## Greetings from Hazel and John Daniels

Well, John and I are lucky, we came over to France mid-December before it closed its borders to the UK. We feel much safer here in the rural area where our



son lives with his family. This is about an hour's drive to the Pyrenees.

Masks have to be worn in villages and there is a curfew from 8pm to 6am each day.

We have been able to see our grandchildren and also have many good walks. Our best one was in the Pyrenees. The

trees were beautifully covered with snow which was about a foot deep, and you can see I enjoyed myself from the photos!

We are not hurrying back yet!

Wishing you all a Happy and Healthy New Year. Hope it's so much better than 2020. Do keep safe and it will be great when we can all meet up again.

All the very best, John & Hazel xx



## It's our 70th anniversary this year

In 1951 the local school in Stewartby decided to have a production of Gilbert and Sullivan's "The Pirates of Penzance". That was the birth of Stewartby Amateur Operatic and Dramatic Society (initially called Stewartby School Operatic and Dramatic Society).

A lot has changed in the intervening years and the coronavirus pandemic has put a stop to productions and rehearsals for the last year and possibly for the coming year as well but we would like to celebrate the 70th, the platinum, anniversary this year somehow or other.



As a first step we would like to put on a display of snapshots from across the years. If you have any photographs, particularly from the earlier years of the society, which you would be happy to share, please send a selection to [stewartbyoperatic@saods.org.uk](mailto:stewartbyoperatic@saods.org.uk). The photographs can be of stage productions or of backstage, of programmes or other memorabilia. With your permission some of the photographs will be used in future newsletters and on the Society's web site at [www.saods.org.uk](http://www.saods.org.uk).



# Quiz night

**Thursday 18th February via Zoom, 7.45pm**

This is a brilliant opportunity for us to get together, if only at our computer screens, to see how long everybody's hair has grown during lockdown, to exercise our

brains and to win our magnificent

(virtual) trophy which will be engraved (virtually) with

the winning team's name.

Teams can be made up of as many people as are in your household or bubble.

You will mark your own answers and submit your scores privately.

Provide your own drinks and nibbles or banquet.

Society members will receive an invitation to join the quiz but feel free to share this with friends and relations. If you have not used Zoom before be assured that it is very simple and basic instructions will be provided before the event.



## Greetings from Mike Cocke

Every Saturday morning I walk to my nearest corner shop for a newspaper so I can review the weekly news, gloomy or otherwise, over breakfast, and each Saturday

as I walk, I find myself singing out loud for the passing wildlife and traffic to enjoy, the opening chorus from The Pirates of Penzance -

Pour O pour the pirates sherry,  
Fill, O fill the pirates glass  
And to make us more than

merry Let the pirate bumper pass.

I'm not sure what this says about my psychological make-up, especially after a year and 2 months since our performance, but rest assured it is very healthy to sing out loud, and there may yet be a passing robin or blackbird that appreciates the rendition.

Regards, Mike



## Greetings from Juliet and Colin Jones

It snowed and we don't get snow very often, what were we supposed to do? It's not a very big snowman but we were getting cold and wet so we settled for small but beautifully formed. Unfortunately Mr Spoony (the snowman) is no longer with us!



## Beds Prostate Cancer Support Group

As the most common form of cancer for men it is estimated that one in eight in the UK will get prostate cancer, indeed, I know several people who have had the disease. Early detection significantly improves survival rates and these have tripled in the last 40 years in the UK, probably because of PSA (prostate-specific antigen) testing. The tests are not 100% effective in detecting the cancer but Beds Prostate Cancer Support Group offers health screening for all men over the age of 40. I ordered my kit at the web site shown, paid my money and received the kit within a few days. All the equipment is included and there are full instructions as to how to take a blood sample. Within three days of posting my sample kit I had received my result via email. I am pleased to say that my results were very good.

Colin



The jumble sale planned to take place in February at Houghton Conquest Village Hall has, for obvious reasons, been cancelled.

## Rothsay Education Centre

Time on your hands? Why not take a course at the REC, currently online (membership and fees payable): The History of Daffodils in Art, Greek and Roman Sicily, Introduction to Pen and Ink Drawing, European Film Studies or The Theory of Everything.

There are a wide range of topics on offer. Have a look at the full course catalogue at [www.recedford.co.uk](http://www.recedford.co.uk).



## BEDS Prostate Cancer Support Group

[www.bpcsg.org.uk](http://www.bpcsg.org.uk)

Chairman: Brian Webb,  
2 Hillson Close, Marston Moreteyne, MK43 0QN

Charity No. 1174019

### ATTENTION!

### ALL MEN AGED 40 AND OVER

PROSTATE HEALTH SCREENING  
HOME TESTING KITS AVAILABLE

### A NEW SERVICE IN PLACE OF OUR PSA TESTING DAYS

(Due to Covid-19)

Detecting the early signs of prostate disease

You can now do your own PSA test at home  
with a simple finger-prick

### ORDER YOUR TEST TODAY BY REGISTERING AT OUR WEB SITE

Cost £22.99 (£11.50 using the BPCSG code when registering)

[www.bpcsg.org.uk](http://www.bpcsg.org.uk)



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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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