



# Newsletter Spring 2021



## number 4

**Welcome** to our fourth 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

We spoke too soon! In the week that England moved onto Step 3 of the Roadmap out of Lockdown plans were in place for our first rehearsal for more than a year. There was a good show of members wanting to attend the rehearsal but then the rules were updated. A key point was highlighted by the people at Making Music (who have been very good through the pandemic, clarifying the rules and regulations as they pertained to musical groups). The new rules included a statement that non-professional singing indoors was only permitted in single groups of up to six people. This took a lot of people by surprise. Reaction from musical groups across England ranged from disappointment to anger, as was reported on BBC Radio 2's Jeremy Vine Show on Thursday 27th May. If you would like to listen to the section it is available on [BBC Sounds](http://BBC Sounds), start listening from 1hr 32mins (only available until 25th June).



There is an online petition to Parliament to allow non-professional singing in groups of more than six indoors. It will not change the current rules but it might make a point. At the beginning of June over 50,000 people had signed the petition. If you would like to add your signature to this petition follow [this link](#). You could also write in protest to your MP.

Fear not! When the country is released into step 4, we will be ready and raring to go. More details will be sent to members when we know what is happening.

In the meantime please continue to look after yourselves. 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).



## Annual General Meeting

The AGM was held on Thursday 13th May, 2021. As for last year, the meeting was online. In the Chairman's Annual Report it was noted that, due to the coronavirus restrictions, the Society had had no rehearsals or performances for the past year apart from the call to action in the summer 2020 number 3 newsletter where members were encouraged to record themselves singing as part of a round. The result had been published online and, at the last time of checking, had received 23 views and 1 "like"!



The Chairman also remarked on the two Quiz Nights held online [as reported in previous editions of this newsletter] and thanked the committee for their support during the year. It was announced that Wendy Field and Carol Wallman had decided to stand down from the committee but both had agreed to continue to help out with publicity.

The Treasurer's Report was unusual in that almost every entry in the 2020-21 column was £0.00, referring to both income and expenditure. The few numbers that did appear resulted in a small operating deficit for the year but still left a healthy balance in the bank. Nominal subscription rates for the coming year have been left unchanged and subject to review once activities are able to recommence fully.

The election of the Society's President and Vice-Presidents saw unanimous backing for the continued appointment of Lady Valerie Skeet as President and of Prue Gardiner and Allan Thomas as Vice-Presidents.

The new committee was elected:	Chairman	Colin Jones
	Deputy Chairman	John Epton
	Treasurer and Business Manager	Mike Cocke
	Secretary	Hazel Daniels
	Chair of Social Committee	Pam Massey
	Committee Members	Shirley Hale, Jenny Hall, Jessica Hallett, Richard Hull, Carol Urwin

*the  
committee*

With regard to future productions it was reported that a full scale production in November 2021 was not possible and that any decisions regarding shows or concerts going into 2022 would have to be taken as and when coronavirus restrictions were eased. It remains the hope that the Society will be able to celebrate its 70th anniversary with a function of some description in the first half of 2022.

## Greetings from Colin Jones

It is unlikely that anyone reading this newsletter will have listened to or even heard of Pure West Radio. It is a local community radio based in Haverfordwest, serving and broadcasting to Pembrokeshire in south-west Wales. The Sunday schedule includes the musical theatre show "Behind The Stage Door" from 5pm to 7pm, hosted by Drew Baker.



Drew trained at the London School of Musical Theatre and has directed many shows, including The Mikado and HMS Pinafore at the Battersea Barge and The Pirate Queen at The London Coliseum.

On his Sunday evening show Drew includes a segment called "Amateur Theatre Company of the Week" which, apparently, has proved very popular even beyond the county boundaries of Pembrokeshire. On Sunday 13th June Stewartby Operatic Society will be the amateur theatre company of that week. I will be speaking to Drew on the phone and chatting about the Society, when we were formed, the members, shows we have done, what the plans are for the future and having a general natter about the industry.

If you would like to listen in, you could drive for about 4½ hours to Pembrokeshire, without having to quarantine when you get there or when you get back, and tune in your radio or, perhaps more practically, go to the Pure West Radio web site at [www.purewestradio.com](http://www.purewestradio.com). The amateur theatre slot is due to be on from around 6.25pm.



### On a Completely Different and Slightly Controversial Matter

I made some scones the other day, to have with clotted cream and strawberry jam.

Question 1: is it a scone (to rhyme with cone) or a scon (to rhyme with gone)?

Question 2: for a cream tea, should they be plain or fruited scones?

I have several recipes for making scones but I think the best is one I have adapted from the National Trust.

#### *ingredients*

450g self raising flour  
1 tsp baking powder  
115g softened butter  
75g caster sugar  
85g sultanas  
1 egg beaten  
150ml milk

Pre-soak the sultanas for a few hours in a liquid of your choice: anything from water or cold tea to lemonade or orange juice.

Rub together the flour, baking powder and butter to resemble fine breadcrumbs then stir in the sugar and drained sultanas.

Add the egg and gradually mix in the milk to form a dough.

Knead and then roll out the dough to about 2cm thick.

Cut out circles with a fluted biscuit cutter and place on a baking tray. Brush the tops of the scones with a little milk.

Bake at 200C, fan 180C, gas 6 for 12 to 15 minutes.



Question 3: is there a better recipe?

Question 4: do you serve them Devon-style (cream first, jam on top) or Cornish-style (jam first, cream on top)?





## Step 3

## ROADMAP OUT OF LOCKDOWN

## Step 4



30+



From Monday, 17 May:

- you can meet who you like outdoors
- but you can't meet people in a group of over 30 people.

We will look at whether it is OK to be closer to people. We will look at whether it is OK to hug people.

Restaurants, cafés and pubs will be able to serve people sitting at a table inside.

Other indoor places will also open, like cinemas, children's play areas, hotels and bed and breakfast places.

Some larger outdoor sports and shows will be able to have people watching.

Up to 30 people will be able to go to weddings, funerals and events to remember someone.



If all goes well, step 4 will start on Monday, 21 June.

We hope to remove all the remaining rules that are stopping people from getting together.

Nightclubs will open and large events will be able to take place.



### FREE LATERAL FLOW COVID TESTS

Did you know you can order **free** weekly lateral rapid COVID tests from the government website?  
<https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests>

**You can only use the service if:**

- \*you do not have coronavirus symptoms
- \*you live in England
- \*you're 18 or older
- \*you have not been told to self-isolate
- \*you cannot get tests from your work, school, college or university



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