



Newsletter Summer 2021

Welcome to our first newsletter of summer 2021, 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.

Third time lucky!

We were ready in January, with risk assessments completed, safety measures implemented, social distancing measuring sticks to hand, masks on faces and sanitising gel a-plenty but we were plunged into another covid lockdown so we weren't able to meet.

We were ready in May having dug out the same bits of paperwork that would have got us going in January, having applied the same measures that would have got us going in

January, having even more sanitising gel than we had in January and with the benefit that a large number of our members had had a least one vaccine jab but at the last minute the government changed the rules to restrict us to no more than six people, so we weren't able to meet.

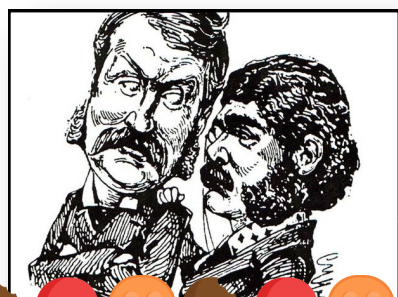
Now we are ready to meet up on Thursday 22nd July - more details on page 3 - assuming that everything goes to plan which, at the time of

writing, is looking hopeful.

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.

Gilbert and Sullivan News

Following its cancellation in 2020 due to the coronavirus pandemic The International Gilbert and Sullivan Festival is back in 2021 for its 27th iteration. The Festival will run from 31st July



to 7th August in Buxton and from 8th to 22nd August in Harrogate with full productions from The National G&S Opera Co., Charles Court Opera and Forbear! Theatre of Patience, HMS Pinafore, The Pirates of Penzance, The Mikado, Ruddigore, Iolanthe, The Sorcerer and The Yeomen of the Guard. There are also fringe theatre productions and talks. Full details can be found at www.gsfestivals.org.



The People behind the G&S Festival are also behind Theatrical Adventures who organise musical cruises which are planned for the Duoro in November 2021, the Danube in December 2021 and the Seine in March 2022. Further details at www.gsfestivals.org.



Illyria Theatre are performing HMS Pinafore throughout July and August at various outdoor locations including Fowlmere near Cambridge, Berkhamsted Castle, Canary Wharf (free event) and

Bishop's Stortford. For more information and to book tickets go to www.illyria.co.uk.

Also touring from July to November are Opera Anywhere, performing HMS Pinafore, The Mikado, The Pirates of Penzance and Patience at, in their own words, some unusual venues. Check out their web site

www.operaanywhere.com for more details. Also go to the web site to see their video introduction to The Mikado which promises plenty of sing along moments to enjoy.



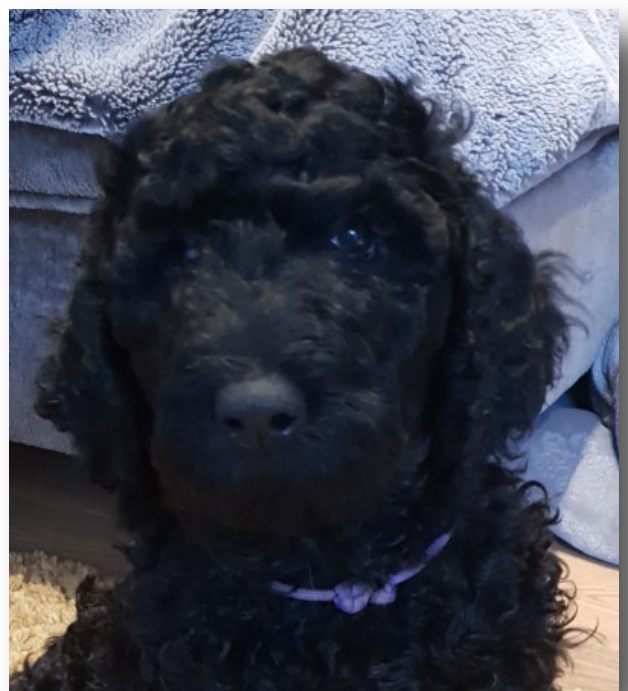
EN With six matinee and twelve evening performances on various dates in October, November and December, English National Opera are staging HMS Pinafore at the London Coliseum. Making his operatic debut is the actor and entertainer Les Dennis who will be taking the role of Sir Joseph Porter KCB. Go to the ENO web site at www.eno.org for information and to book tickets.

Grim's Dyke Hotel in Harrow is in the former home of W.S. Gilbert and is the current home of Grim's Dyke Opera. The company stage fully costumed performances in Gilbert's music room combined with a dining experience. On three Sundays in September, October and December there is an Evening with Gilbert and Sullivan including a three-course meal and live opera. The hotel web site is www.grimsdyke.com.

Information generously supplied by John Epton

Greetings from Juliet and Colin Jones

We have a new member of the family. Plum is a double doodle (no, we didn't know what that meant either): father is a labradoodle (a cross between a labrador and a poodle) and mother is a golden doodle (a cross between a golden retriever and a poodle) - hence "double doodle".



Back To Rehearsals

Rehearsals will recommence on Thursday 22nd July, unless circumstances and the government dictate otherwise. Just as in “the old days”, pre-pandemic, we will meet at Stewartby United Church hall from 7.45pm with the rehearsal starting at 8pm until 10pm.

Unless the government changes its policy at the last minute (it wouldn't be the first time), there will be no legal restrictions in force at that date. At the time of writing Stewartby United Church has not imposed any conditions either on the use of the church hall.

It is fully understood that, with numbers of coronavirus cases continuing to increase, many people will still be cautious about meeting indoors in a large group. Indeed, the best way to restrict the transmission of the virus is to keep apart from others. We will continue to take precautions (see below) but the ultimate decision to attend or not to attend is yours.

In order to minimise the risk of virus transmission to rehearsal attendees:

- sanitising gel will be available at the door
- windows will be open to allow the circulation of fresh air
- a register will be taken in case we need to trace contacts
- you will be able to check in to the venue using the NHS Covid-19 app on your phone

You may wish to consider:

- wearing a face mask on entering and moving around the hall
- bringing your own water or other refreshment

Rehearsals will be on Thursday 22nd July, Thursday 29th July and Thursday 5th August. We will then break for a few weeks before returning on Thursday 9th September. Each rehearsal will be at the church hall, 7.45pm, to start at 8pm.

If you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to express them in an email to stewartbyoperatic@saods.org.uk.

Subscriptions

After the AGM, subscriptions are usually due to be paid by the end of June. As we have not been meeting or performing there has been no call for members to pay subscriptions for 2020-2021 and the few costs that have been incurred have been covered out of the Society's coffers. With the return to rehearsals, however, expenses will be incurred - not least the cost of hiring the church hall - and, therefore, subscriptions will become due.



A number of generous members and patrons have paid subscriptions or made donations even through the closure period. The Committee have not yet decided if there will be a reduction in the subscription for 2021-2022 or when it will be

due but if you feel that you would like to pay the regular annual fee of £40 for Acting and Singing Members or £10 for Associate Members, Treasurer Mike Cocke would be delighted to receive your payment. You can pay through internet banking to sort code 60-02-13, account 51721473 using the reference SUBS (your name) or by cheque or cash.



The Future

Throughout the Society's enforced pandemic closure the Committee have continued to meet, sometimes via Zoom, sometimes, when the rules have allowed, in person at distance in the church hall, and have discussed the options for productions in 2021 and 2022. The decision was made and reported some time ago that our regular November show had been cancelled for 2021.

With the recommencement of rehearsals in July the questions arose as to whether or not we might be able to stage a concert of some description in November and what should we aim for in 2022? The Committee are still hopeful that we will be able to celebrate the Society's 70th anniversary next year with a concert and a meal and have pencilled in The Mikado as our comeback production in November 2022.

What we do in 2021 depends very much on the situation with the coronavirus and we are, therefore, playing a game of wait and see. We could go out as a choir or music group to sing Christmas music. We might be able to put on a concert in November 2021 but we don't know if there will be any restrictions on performing or on audience numbers. We don't know if members will be willing to perform or if audiences will be willing to return. We don't know if we will be able to, or want to, crowd into the changing rooms or onto the stage at the Village Hall.

These matters will be considered at future committee meetings but if you have any ideas, comments or questions please put them in an email to stewartbyoperatic@saods.org.uk or speak to one of the members of the Committee.

Jumble Sale

We still have plans for a jumble sale at Houghton Conquest Village Hall on Saturday 9th October. Our last jumble sale was in February 2020 and in the intervening year and a half you have probably accumulated a fair collection of items. Don't do anything with them yet until we know for certain that this event will go ahead.

Local Theatre

Both professional and amateur theatre have been hit hard by the pandemic lockdowns and subsequent restrictions. Just as Stewartby Operatic begins to get going again so will other local and visiting groups. Please lend them your support. Check local theatre and theatre groups' web sites for information and we will endeavour to publicise forthcoming attractions in these newsletters.

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 web site at www.saods.org.uk and on Facebook at www.facebook.com/stewartbyoperaticsociety. Queries about tickets should be sent to boxoffice@saods.org.uk. Any other queries should be sent to information@saods.org.uk.

*the
committee*

JUMBLE
SALE

