



# Newsletter Summer 2021

## Number 2

**Welcome** to our second 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](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.



### Third time was lucky!

We were ready in January. We were ready in May. We finally made it in July! It's good to be back. We remain socially distanced and the windows have been flung open to ensure good ventilation.



We know that the coronavirus has not gone away and we intend to proceed with caution. We are making every effort to minimise the risk of coronavirus transmission but we recognise that some people are



still not ready to return to rehearsals. We will be delighted to welcome them back whenever they feel confident enough to attend.

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).



### Lady Skeet

President, friend and loyal supporter of Stewartby Operatic Society for many years, Valerie Skeet recently celebrated a significant birthday. The Society sent a card and flowers. Inspired by one of the pieces we have been rehearsing since returning after lockdown Peter Davis created a YouTube video of Albert Ketèlbey's "In A



Lady Skeet with committee members at the 60th anniversary dinner

Monastery Garden" in tribute to Lady Skeet. You can see the video by following [this link](#).

### Tony Swain

Tony, formerly of Ampthill, passed away peacefully on 1st August 2021 aged 90 years. He was the husband of the late June Swain who performed with Stewartby Operatic Society until the 50th anniversary performance in 2001. After that time Tony and June both continued to support the Society with June joining in the singing at rehearsals and Tony working in the background at performances and other events.

A donation has been made by the Society in Tony's name to the Royal Papworth Hospital Charity.

### Jumble Sale

Plans remain afoot to hold a jumble sale on Saturday 9th October at Houghton Conquest Village Hall. Proceeds from the jumble sales usually go towards the expense of staging a show in November. The disruption to rehearsal schedules as a result of the coronavirus regulations has meant that there will not be a full scale production in November 2021, however. Money raised from the jumble sale will, therefore, at the request of Pam Massey, who masterminds all the jumble sales and many other things as well, go to support Afghan refugees in this country.



### Subscriptions

Annual subscriptions are usually due to be paid by the end of June, following the Society's AGM. With the temporary cessation of rehearsals in 2020 and early 2021, subscriptions were suspended although a few generous souls paid up nevertheless. Now that we have returned to rehearsals and are planning our future productions (see page 3) we are beginning to incur expenses and must, therefore, request the payment of annual subscriptions for the year 2021-2022. The Society's Committee decided at a recent



meeting that the annual subscription should remain at £40 for a Singing or Acting Member and at £10 for an Associate Member.

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 to Mike or any member of the Committee.

# subscriptions

## The Future

Planning for the long term is proving easier than for the short term. We will resume our usual pattern of rehearsals and productions in 2022 and beyond. Somewhat delayed by the coronavirus restrictions our 70th anniversary production will be Gilbert and Sullivan's *The Mikado* in November 2022. Also celebrating our 70th anniversary there will be a social evening for members and friends, past and present, in

either March or April 2022. Please watch this space and our web site at [www.saods.org.uk](http://www.saods.org.uk) for further details.

We are also planning for our usual Spring Concert in May 2022. Again, watch this space and our web site for further details.



The short term future is a little more difficult to plan with certainty. The Committee have not previously been able to make firm plans while there has been the uncertainty of lockdown or no lockdown, restrictions or no restrictions. Although all legal restrictions have disappeared there remain some questions as to what sort of performance, if any, the Society will be able to put on in place of a full show production in November 2021. The

Committee recently decided that the Society will produce a "We're Back" concert including pieces old and new performed by soloists, small groups or the ensemble. The format will be slightly different from our Spring Concerts as we respect coronavirus precautions for both the audience and the cast. It is hoped that this concert will raise money for charity and form the backbone of future concerts which have already been pencilled in for local charities. Rehearsals for the November concert continue on Thursday evenings at 7.45pm at Stewartby United Church hall with the likelihood of extra rehearsals being included on other days, to be arranged.



## Other Societies and Venues

(for more information click the images to go to the respective societies' web sites)



THE PLACE, BEDFORD



Wilstead Players are also celebrating their 50th anniversary and have plans for a production called "Make 'Em Laugh" comprising comedy items and sketches.

A Box of Opera Delights

Sunday 26 September  
Copped Hall, Essex  
4pm

Tickets £20 (including wine)  
raising funds for the on-going restoration  
of Copped Hall arts and education centre

Felici Opera

Godfrey Laws  
Chartered Accountants



A cornucopia of Gilbert and Sullivan music to delight you.  
Stantonbury Theatre,  
10th to 13th November

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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)

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/stewartbyoperatic](https://www.facebook.com/stewartbyoperatic). 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).

