



Newsletter Spring



2022

Welcome to our spring 2022 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.

70th anniversary

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).

We were unable to celebrate the 70th anniversary in 2021 due to coronavirus restrictions but nobody was too worried about the technicalities of exact dates at the 70th

Anniversary Dinner held at Stewartby Village Hall on Saturday 2nd April. More details and photos of the evening can be found on page 3.

Jumble Sale

Another successful jumble sale was held at Houghton Conquest Village Hall in March yielding a profit of £248. Thanks go to Pam Massey for organising the event and to all the helpers. Last autumn the jumble sale helped us to fund a donation in support of Afghan refugees, this time the Society has made a donation to the Disasters Emergency Committee in support of Ukrainian refugees.



If anyone would like to contribute to or comment on any newsletter please email stewartbyoperatic@saods.org.uk.



Spring Concert

Rehearsals are well under way for the Spring Concert on Friday 6th and Saturday 7th May at Stewartby Village Hall. Tickets cost £16 which includes a fish and chip supper and a dessert and we will be running a licensed bar serving a limited range of drinks for your refreshment.

The concert has been masterminded and is led by Shirley Hale with Pam Rogers at the piano and Carol Wallman with Gordon Hodges sorting out the movement. The music on offer during the evening ranges from Abba to Andrew Lloyd Webber, from Gershwin to Gilbert and Sullivan, and from Bizet to Berlin with many others in between.

Tickets can be obtained by contacting Mike Cocke, our Business Manager, on 07557 670703 or at boxoffice@saods.org.uk, from cast members or online at www.saods.org.uk.



Annual General Meeting

This year's AGM will be held in the flesh at Stewartby United Church Hall on Thursday 19th May at 7.30pm. Members will receive appropriate papers by email, where possible, in advance of the meeting.

International Gilbert and Sullivan Festival

The festival takes place this year at Buxton Opera House from July 30th to August 6th and at Harrogate Royal Hall from August 10th to August 21st. Jenny and Bill Hall have already booked their tickets for a five

Shearings



day holiday with Shearings Coach Holidays which includes two festival performances in Harrogate as well as excursions to York and Knaresborough and four nights bed, breakfast and evening meal at the Hotel St George in Harrogate. The holiday starts on Monday 15th August with a coach pick up from Bedford and features performances of Princess Ida and HMS Pinafore. There are

more details on the Shearings website at www.shearings.com or click on the Shearings logo, above. Jenny and Bill would be delighted to see some other G&S enthusiasts on the holiday and, so they say, they do not get a commission if others book up as well!

Annual Dinner



Celebrating seventy years of Stewartby Operatic Society the annual dinner included an exhibition, put together by John Epton, of photographs, cuttings and programmes from the

earliest days as a school society to the latest production before the coronavirus pandemic closed everything down for a couple of years.

Although Lady Skeet, the Society's president, was unable to attend and sent her apologies the event was graced by the presence of Laura Adams who was a founder member of the Society.

Entertainment was provided by Mary Brown, Peter Davis, Jessica Hallett, Chris Hodges, Gordon Hodges and Charles Mills with piano accompaniment by Pam Rogers.

Thanks and congratulations go to Pam Massey for organising the evening.

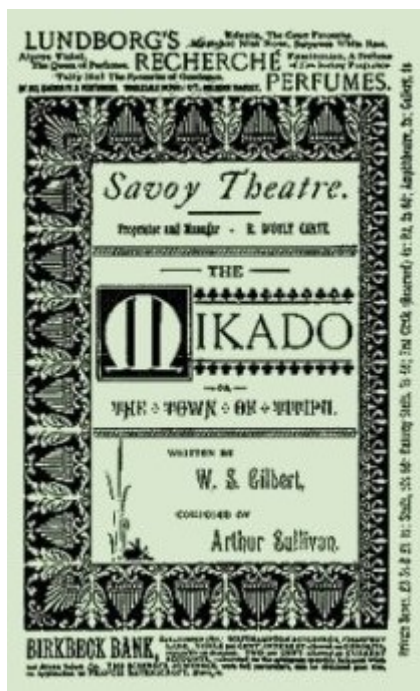
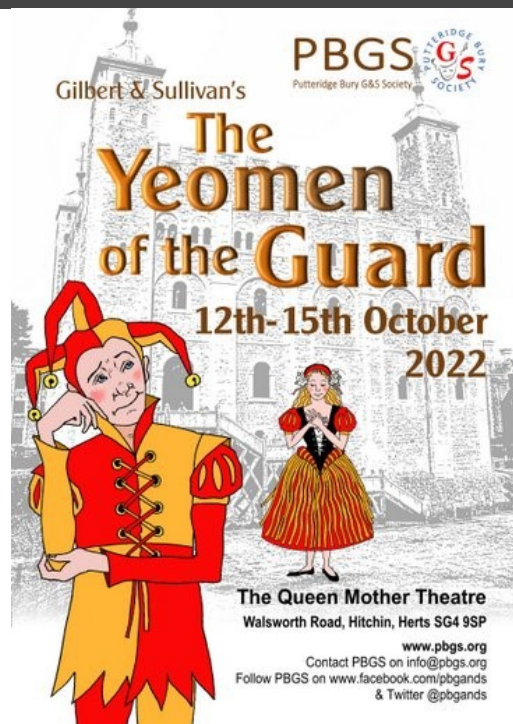


Stewartby Operatic, November 2022

Our major production this year will be Gilbert and Sullivan's *The Mikado*. It was first produced at the Savoy Theatre, London, on 14th March 1885 (the picture, courtesy of www.gsarchive.net, is of the programme from an early performance) and Stewartby Operatic Society's first production of it was in 1957.

Rehearsals for this production will begin on Thursday 26th May. They will be led by our musical director Alana Thackray and our director Gordon Hodges and will take place at Stewartby United Church Hall.

The performances will be on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday evenings, 16th, 17th and 18th November and on the afternoon of Saturday 19th November.



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Our choral programme is open to all singers (no audition needed) who will be welcomed at any of our events.

The next event is Mozart's Requiem at Westminster Central Hall in July.

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

