



# Newsletter Summer 2022

**Welcome** to our newsletter for summer 2022, keeping you in touch with what's happening at Stewartby Amateur Operatic and Dramatic Society and our friends in other societies.

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[www.saods.org.uk](http://www.saods.org.uk), scroll to the bottom of the page and

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## Happy New Year

The Society's year runs from June to May, with the AGM marking the end of the old year; the start of rehearsals for the November production heralding in the new year. It is to be hoped that the peculiarities of the last couple of years are now part of history and behind us and that the Society will be able to return to some sort of "normality". The Committee is very aware that difficulties remain, however, with some people still reluctant to return to a closely seated concert hall and wary of mixing with people in enclosed spaces; this applies to audience members as well as Society members. Covid-19 is still with us and we must remain cautious but life must go on... and so must the show!

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

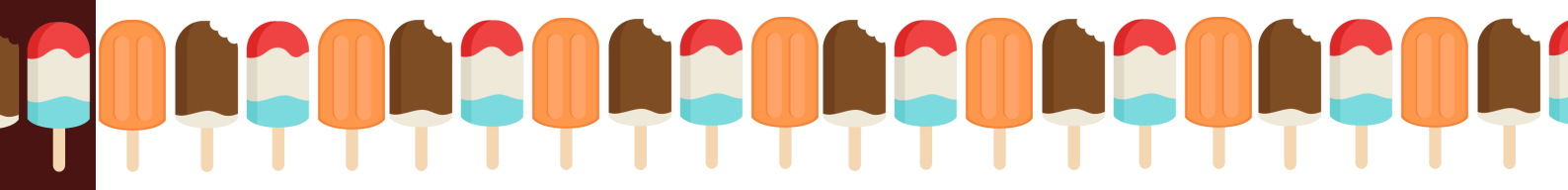
[stewartbyoperatic@saods.org.uk](mailto:stewartbyoperatic@saods.org.uk).

## Annual General Meeting

At the Society's AGM, held on Thursday 19th May, the Treasurer reported that the Society made a small profit on the year. The November 2021 concert made a loss but the 70th Anniversary Annual Dinner made a small profit and members' subscriptions, which were not collected in 2020/21, plus the return of the jumble sales helped to keep the Society in the black. The Chairman proposed changes to the Society's constitution and explained his reasoning. The first proposed change was to the structure of the committee, reducing the number of elected officers and making the size of the committee more flexible to cater for the changing numbers of members in the Society. The meeting voted for the change which cut the elected offices to those of Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer with other



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responsibilities to be decided within the Committee. The size of the Committee, excluding the elected officers, can be between two and nine with a quorum set at four.

The meeting agreed to set the auditioning panel to comprise the director, musical director, two members of the committee and one invited guest. The most contentious proposal, however, which inspired the most discussion and which was eventually defeated was to amend the title of the office of "Chairman" to the office of "Chair"!



The meeting confirmed the appointment of Lady Skeet as president and Prue Gardiner and Allan Thomas as vice-presidents and elected the committee for the coming year. Colin Jones decided not to stand as Chairman and there were no nominations for his replacement. Colin agreed to continue temporarily as acting chairman. Hazel Daniels was elected as Secretary and Mike Cocke as Treasurer. Other members of the committee elected were John Epton, Shirley Hale, Jenny Hall, Jessica Hallett, Chris Hodges, Colin Jones, Richard Hull, Pam Massey and Carol Urwin.

November 2023's production was confirmed as Gilbert and Sullivan's *The Gondoliers* and suggestions were invited for the theme of the Spring Concert in 2023.

### Subscriptions

After the AGM, subscriptions are due to be paid by the end of June. Treasurer Mike Cocke would be delighted to receive your payment of £40 for Singing or Acting Members, or £10 for Associate Members. You can pay through internet banking to sort code 60-02-13, account 51721473 using the reference SUBS (your name), with your plastic card, by cheque or even the old fashioned way using cash.

### The Mikado

Auditions took place for the principal roles in November's production of *The Mikado*.

The Mikado of Japan - Michael Webster

Nanki-Poo (*his son, disguised as a minstrel, in love with Yum-Yum*) - Chris Hodges

Ko-Ko (*Lord High Executioner of Titipu*) - Stephen Hoath

Pooh-Bah (*Lord High Everything Else*) - Peter Davis

Pish-Tush (*a noble lady*) - Carol Urwin

Yum-Yum (*sister of Pitti-Sing and Peep-Bo, ward of Ko-Ko*) - Bex Badham

Pitti-Sing (*sister of Peep-Bo and Yum-Yum, ward of Ko-Ko*) - Jessica Hallett

Peep-Bo (*sister of Yum-Yum and Pitti-Sing, ward of Ko-Ko*) - Sandra Buck

Katisha (*an elderly lady, in love with Nanki-Poo*) - Linda Bowen

# Mikado

### Little Paxton Concert

Sporting the Society's new black and red concert "uniform", accompanied by Pam Rogers on the piano and conducted by Colin Jones, members of the Society performed a concert of Gilbert and



Sullivan, Lloyd Webber and a few other songs at St James's Church, Little Paxton to help raise funds for the church's projects. The almost capacity audience enjoyed the music and the concerters certainly enjoyed the lavish buffet provided during the interval!





### Colin Jackson

It is with great sadness that we learnt of the death of Colin Jackson on 24th May. Colin performed with the Society (the photo shows him as one of the policemen in *The Pirates of Penzance* in 2010), videoed some performances and was a great friend of the Society. In the words of his wife, Jenny, who is still performing with the Society, "It is with blessings and much sadness that Colin passed. He is now at rest after a number of years being unable to participate in his many interests."



### Greetings from Margaret Snape

Our Ukrainian refugees arrived just over a month ago. We have a mum and her 13 year old son living with us. She's nice but I'm struggling with a 13 year old boy! All my family are girls who have girls. He started school in May and the school have been great, so supportive. We have a private language tutor who teaches English as a second language who is giving him lessons twice a week for nothing and we've had so many donations of clothes, a bmx bike, a laptop and an Xbox but I'm holding on to the Xbox until he gets himself into gear and integrates himself by a bit more effort. Typical teenager!

I'm enjoying *Shrek*. The music is pretty good. I didn't think it would be my sort of thing but, like my last show, *Calendar Girls*, there are great harmonies.

I'm still working at the food bank and have started teaching dance classes again. Early days but people seem to be enjoying it.

Hope you managed to have some Jubilee celebrations. We joined a street party and it was fun. Ron had his knee replaced at the beginning of May but is now really mobile which is great. The garden is big so I need him to be mobile!

## The Committee

At the first committee meeting after the constitution changes at the AGM (see page 2), decisions were made regarding responsibilities. The rule changes were intended to allow flexibility within the committee, to promote possible sharing of responsibilities and to encourage committee members to take on new roles, even if only temporarily. Citing that part of section 5 of the constitution which states that "The Committee may appoint members to fill vacancies amongst officers or the Committee which occur between Annual General Meetings" and with unanimous agreement the Committee appointed Chris Hodges as the new chairman of the Society. John Epton was appointed as Deputy Chairman, Jessica Hallett as Publicity Manager, Mike Cocke as Business Manager and Pam Massey as Social Secretary.

Amongst other points of discussion the Treasurer reported that the Spring Concert made a small loss which was due to the smaller audiences than in other years: ticket income in 2022 was roughly £1000 down on the previous concert in 2019. The Committee agreed to review the format and content of the Spring Concert at a future meeting. In preparation for the launch in September of tickets for November's production of *The Mikado* it was decided that ticket prices will be £15 for each performance with children half price.

## Jumble Sale

The next jumble sale at Houghton Conquest Village Hall will be on Saturday 8th

October. Now is the time to start sorting out those clothes that are in good condition but which are ready to be replaced, items worthy of being raffle prizes and other bits and bobs that could be sold to help raise funds for the Society.



*the committee*

## LUTON CHORAL SOCIETY Celebrating its 150th Season



Saturday 2nd July 2022 at 7:30pm

St Augustine's Church

Icknield Way, Luton LU3 2JR

*A Sound of Singing  
fills the Air*

including works by Vaughan Williams and César Franck,  
and a new anniversary commission by Cecilia McDowall

Conducted by Crispin Lewis



Tickets £12, £10 (concessions), £5 (under 18)

Available online at

[www.lutonchoralsociety.org.uk](http://www.lutonchoralsociety.org.uk) or on the door

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