



Newsletter Summer 2023

Welcome to our newsletter for summer 2023, 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.

A Busy Time

A lot has happened since our last newsletter - some occasions making history, others important in their own little way. For most people history was made in May with the coronation of King Charles III and Queen Camilla. Stewartby Operatic Society cannot claim to have had any influence over or connection with the coronation but it was pleasing to note that Buckingham Palace arranged it to avoid clashing with our Spring Concert. Unfortunately the organisers of the Eurovision Song Contest were not quite so considerate. May also saw the AGM and the launch of our November production of Gilbert and Sullivan's The Gondoliers. More details later in this newsletter.

Many thanks to those who have contributed to this edition of the newsletter. 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.

Annual General Meeting

At the Society's AGM, held on Thursday 18th May, the Treasurer, Mike Cocke, reported that the Society made a profit on the year with the November production of The Mikado almost breaking even (a rare occasion with the November shows) and the Spring Concert making a profit. The Treasurer highlighted the income of £900 for the two jumble sales in the year and recorded his thanks to Pam Massey for organising these events.

The Society's costs are expected to increase especially in relation to the hire of Stewartby Village Hall and Stewartby United Church Hall, so the Treasurer proposed an increase in membership subscriptions to £43 for Singing and Acting members and to £11 for Associate members. This proposal was passed by the meeting.



Chris Hodges was elected as Chairman, Mike Cocke as Treasurer and Hazel Daniels as Secretary. The other committee members elected were John Epton, Shirley Hale, Jenny Hall, Jessica Hallett, Richard Hull, Colin Jones, Pam Massey and Carol Urwin.

In previous years the choice of the next year's November production was always made by the committee and confirmed by the members at the AGM. This year, however, it was decided to ask those at the meeting to make suggestions for the production in November 2024, from which the committee will make their selection. The titles proffered by the members covered quite a range, including My Fair Lady, Utopia Limited, Merrie England, The Tales of Hoffman and Phantom of the Opera. A final decision will be made in the coming months.



The Gondoliers

Director Susan Hoath launched rehearsals alongside Musical Director Alana Thackray. Susan explained her vision of this production as being set in the 1950s (to commemorate the first time Stewartby Operatic performed The Gondoliers) and gave character descriptions of chorus and principal roles. After a few rehearsals auditions took place for the principal roles with the final cast list as shown.

gondoliers

Marco Palmieri - Gordon Hodges
Giuseppe Palmieri - Christopher Hodges
Antonio - Sam Hillyard
Francesco - Charles Mills
Giorgio - Michael Webster

contadine

Gianetta - Claire Moore
Tessa - Katie Osborne
Fiametta - Carol Urwin
Vittoria - Freya Mullen
Giulia - Bryony Reynolds

other characters

Duke of Plaza-Toro - Colin Jones
Duchess of Plaza-Toro - Linda Bowen
Casilda - Jessica Hallett
Luiz - Rob Gregory
Don Alhambra Del Bolero - Stephen Hoath
Inez - Shirley Hale



The Gondoliers will be performed at Stewartby Village Hall on the evenings of Wednesday to Friday 15th to 17th November and on the afternoon of Saturday 18th November. Tickets are not yet on sale but check the Society's website at www.saods.org.uk for more news.

The Committee

At the first meeting following the AGM the new committee (which is exactly the same as the old committee) elected John Epton as the Deputy Chairman, Mike Cocke as the Business Manager, Pam Massey as the Social Secretary and Jessica Hallett as the Publicity Manager.

A new safeguarding policy was adopted. Jessica Hallett is the named safeguarding person and is, therefore, the first point of contact if anyone has any safeguarding concerns. The policy is available to download from the Society's website at www.saods.org.uk.

Spring Concert 2023

After four months of rehearsals - most of which seemed to be spent attempting to master the Easter Hymn from Cavalleria Rusticana - the Spring Concert proved a big hit with our audiences.

As mentioned earlier, Saturday evening's performance was up against the Eurovision Song Contest on television; we may not have had as many in the audience as were in Liverpool but undoubtedly our offerings rivalled the quality of theirs. There were many positive comments from those who attended, including some from people who said that they had been pleasantly surprised at how much they had enjoyed the operatic songs and choruses, particularly in the relaxed and light-hearted way that they were presented.

This programme, and variations of it, can be resurrected at any time and the Society would be delighted to be able to perform at other venues for pure entertainment or to support a fund-raising event. Please contact the secretary at information@saods.org.uk for more details.



popular songs and choruses
both classic and classical... with chips

Friday 12th and Saturday 13th May, 2023
at Stewartby Village Hall



www.saods.org.uk

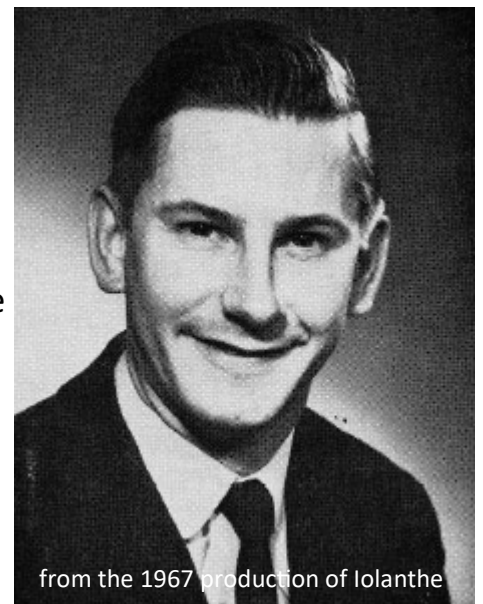
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John Gribble

It was with much sadness that the Society learnt of the death of John Gribble. John had a long association with the Society as a quick trawl of past show programmes has revealed. In 1967 he played Strephon in Iolanthe. By 1975's version of Iolanthe he was a patron of the Society, was in the chorus and was credited with stage construction. Following the Iolanthe theme, in 1986 he was again in the chorus and by 1998 he was an honorary life member of the Society and also stage manager.

Our thoughts and sympathies are with his family and friends.



from the 1967 production of Iolanthe

BEDFORD FESTIVAL
Fringe
 bedfringe.co.uk | 20 - 30 July | 2023

CHILDREN'S THEATRE | COMEDY
 THEATRE | DANCE & PHYSICAL THEATRE
 POETRY & SPOKEN WORD | MUSIC | FILM

OVER 100 EVENTS
 ACROSS 3 VENUES
 11 DAYS OF ENTERTAINMENT

BINGE THE FRINGE!

The Wandering Minstrels

The World of Gilbert and Sullivan
 Saturday 16th September, 2023
 at 7.30pm
 Blunham Parish Church



PBGS
 Putteridge Bury G&S Society

The Sorcerer
 by Gilbert & Sullivan

Our next show in
Autumn 2023

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info@pbgs.org
www.facebook.com/pbgands
 Twitter @pbgands

Jumble Sale

The next
 jumble sale
 at Houghton
 Conquest
 Village Hall
 will be on
 Saturday
 14th

**JUMBLE
 SALE**

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.

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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

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.

