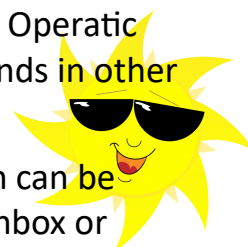




Newsletter Summer 2026

Welcome to our newsletter for summer 2026, 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.



Into The Unknown?

This time last year the "unknown" was the Society's first ever venture into the world of musicals outside of the Gilbert and Sullivan collection. That went very well but this year, celebrating our 75th anniversary, we are returning to G&S with productions of Trial By Jury and HMS Pinafore. This time the "unknown" element is with some of the cast members. There's more information about our 75th Anniversary year productions on page 3.



For our anniversary we are still collecting together and displaying memories from across the 75 years. If you have any photos, cuttings, stories or other memorabilia, especially from the earlier years of the Society, please get in touch at stewartbyoperatic@saods.org.uk. Also remember that our website at www.saods.org.uk is our main archive and already displays copies of all the programmes from 1952 onwards, photographs and some video clips from many previous productions.

Annual General Meeting



On Thursday 14th May at Stewartby United Church, members of the Society gathered for the Annual General Meeting. The Chairman, Chris Hodges, welcomed members and presented his recap of the year's events. Treasurer, Mike Cocke, talked through his report for the year with the headlines being the annual



turnover of over £17,000 but a net trading loss of over £2000. This was not unexpected and was the result of significant additional costs for the production of The Merry Widow in November 2025, being for the orchestral arrangement and licence, the scores and the Musical Director and additional set building. The Spring Concert 2025, A Modern Music Hall, on the other hand, made a profit of about £800.



With costs rising in general and especially in relation to the hire of the Village Hall and the United Church Hall, an increase in the membership subscription was proposed (and subsequently accepted by the members) to £55 for Singing and Acting Membership, to £40 for Young Singing and Acting Membership and to £15 for Associate Membership.

Lady Skeet and Allan Thomas were confirmed as the Society's President and Vice President respectively. Chris Hodges was re-elected as Chairman, Mike Cocke was re-elected as Treasurer and Gordon Hodges was re-elected as Secretary. The other committee members elected were Hazel Daniels, Shirley Hale, Jessica Hallett, Colin Jones and Pam Massey.

The Committee

At the first meeting of the new committee Colin Jones was appointed as Deputy Chairman, Mike Cocke as Business Manager, Pam Massey as Social Secretary, Jessica Hallett as Publicity Manager, assisted by Colin Jones, and Jessica Hallett and Gordon Hodges as Safeguarding Officers.

the committee

Stewartby 100 years

Stewartby Operatic Society is not alone in celebrating a big anniversary this year. The village of Stewartby is celebrating 100

years as a model village, originally built for the workers of the London Brick Company and designed to the plans of Mr F. W. Walker, the company's architect.

In July there was an open air celebration with fairground rides, food and drink, miscellaneous stalls and a fireworks display. Some members of the Society gathered to present a programme of G&S songs from HMS Pinafore and Trial By Jury as well as other operatic and musical favourites.

On Saturday 5th September there will be an exhibition celebrating 100 years of Stewartby history at the Village Hall (see poster on page 4) and in November there will be a gala dinner. For more information go to the Stewartby Parish Council website by clicking [here](#).



Trial By Jury and HMS Pinafore

To celebrate our 75th anniversary Stewartby Operatic Society will present two operettas in November. Trial By Jury will feature invited guests (previous members) in some of the principal roles. It will be a splendid opportunity to welcome back a few of the people who have contributed to the history of the Society.



NOVEMBER 18th - 21st 2026

*Stewartby Amateur Operatic
& Dramatic Society presents*

Gilbert & Sullivan's

TRIAL BY JURY

&

HMS PINAFORE

HMS Pinafore will also be a special production with many of the main characters appearing as puppets (if you've ever seen Avenue Q you will know the sort of thing). At one of the first rehearsals Director Tim Sell demonstrated his vision (see photograph).

Tickets, priced £18 and £10 (for children) are on sale at the Society's website at www.saods.org.uk, from our Business Manager at boxoffice@saods.org.uk and on 07557 670703 or through members.

If you would be interested in helping out during the show week, backstage or front of house, please get in touch with our Production Manager, Jessica Hallett, by email to stewartbyoperatic@saods.org.uk or personal contact.

Jenny Jackson

The Society was greatly saddened to learn of the death of Jenny Jackson earlier this year. Jenny first sang in the chorus at Stewartby in Ruddigore in 2000 and performed in concerts and shows, in chorus, solo and minor principal roles, every year afterwards. This year's Spring Concert, in which she was due to perform a solo as well as join the chorus, was dedicated to Jenny.

The Society has made a donation to the family's chosen charity, the People's Dispensary for Sick Animals, in Jenny's memory. Our thoughts are with Jenny's family and friends.



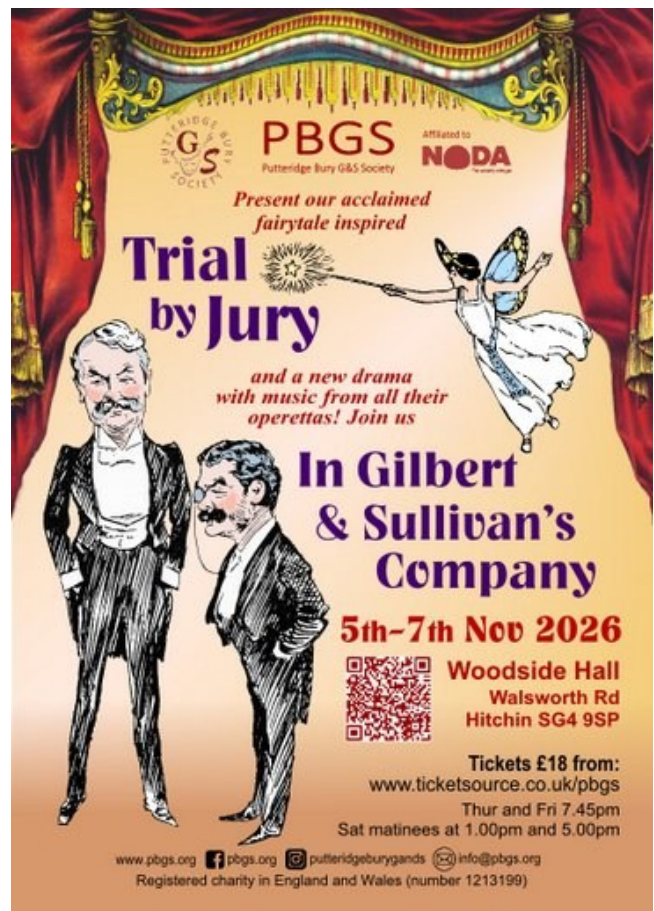
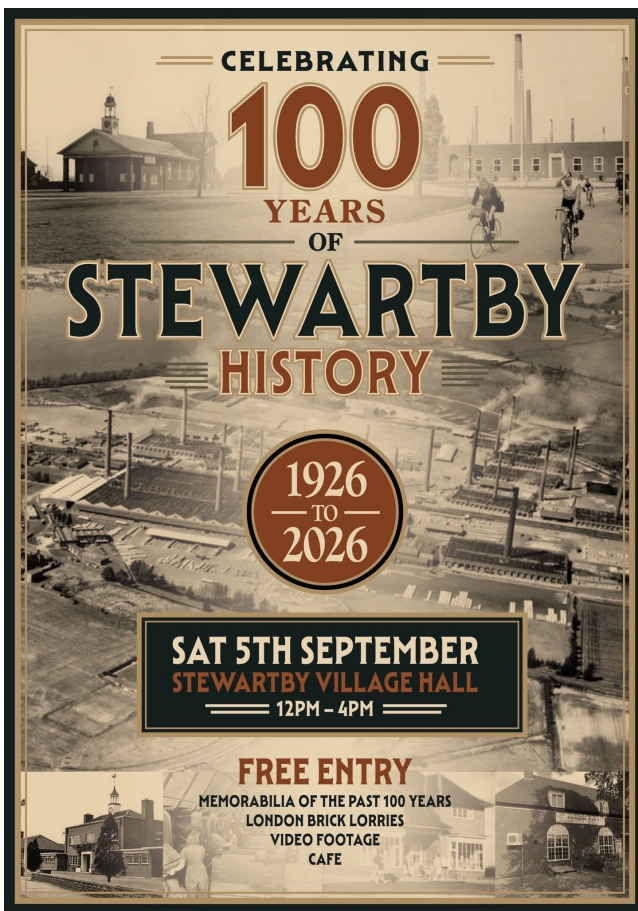
Spring Concert 2026

This year's Spring Concert "Dido and Aeneas and Other Myths and Legends" took place on Friday and Saturday 8th and 9th May. As well as the traditional Friday fish and chips, last year's innovation of a cream tea for Saturday's matinee performance was repeated but, in an effort to cater for all tastes and situations, there was also an evening performance without food on the Saturday.



Jumble Sale

Another of Pam Massey's famous jumble sales will take place at Houghton Conquest Village Hall on Saturday 10th October. It's never too late to have a sort through at home as Pam is eager to fill her garage with pre-loved goodies for sale to help raise funds for the Society.



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 website 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.

