

## **STEWARTBY AMATEUR OPERATIC and DRAMATIC SOCIETY - Iolanthe**

*Director of Production - Prue Gardiner*

*Musical Director - Allan Thomas*

*Stewartby Village Hall November 20th 2008*

This was another sparkling G + S production from Prue Gardiner and Allan Thomas. The music was excellent. The fourteen piece orchestra in Allan's skilled hands was a delight! All the main choruses were sung well. The finale in particular, was especially spirited with fine harmonies.

The quality of the soloists added to the musical delights of this production. Charles Mills (Strephon), a relaxed and confident performer with a fine voice, is always a pleasure to watch. Carol Urwin (Phyllis) with a good soprano voice, complemented him perfectly. Alison Gibbs, a commanding Queen of the Fairies, with her rich contralto voice, suited the part. Her solo 'Oh foolish fay' was very well sung. Linda Bowen (Iolanthe) looked wonderful and her recitative was touching and very effective. John Epton was well cast as the Lord Chancellor. There was good support too from Peter Davis (Mountararat) who gave an excellent rendition of when Britain really ruled the Waves; and Gordon Hodges (Tolloller) added humour and a melodic baritone voice. The three fairies too worked well as a team, Sarah Cooksley added much humour to the trio.

Under Prue's direction the show had pace and energy, with good use of the stage and simple but effective choreography. She created an atmosphere of effervescent fantasy, so appropriate for this show.

This was a delightful evening.