



# Yeovil Amateur Operatic Society

(Formed 1902)

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Affiliated to the National Operatic and Dramatic Association

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*Please reply to:* Paula

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Dear Members

A Happy New Year to you all! Let's hope everyone is safe and well in these difficult times and here's hoping things will now start to get better and we can see the light at the end of the tunnel with the roll out of the vaccine.

We thought this would be an ideal opportunity to keep you all informed as to what has been happening over the last few months on the operatic front.

You will be glad to hear that due to the power of Zoom, your committee has been meeting on a regular basis and keeping things very much under review.

## **Bereavements**

Firstly, some sad news. In the past couple of months we have lost 3 friends of the Society, 2 of them chiefly remembered as brilliant pantomime dames - Chris White and Brian Hussey. The third is life member Wreford Stainer, who died at a care home in Glastonbury last Friday morning. We will all remember Wreford with such great affection and love. He was a friend to all of us. Our thoughts and prayers go out to their families, who cannot celebrate their lives as they would wish. Condolences have been sent.

We have just heard that Wreford's funeral will be held at the Crem on Friday 5 February commencing at 1120 hours. As you know, with the current rules only allowing close family members to attend, it will not be possible for us all to attend the funeral but we are hoping to arrange 'clapping the hearse' as it goes by. We will let you know if this is possible in due course and where it will happen.

## **Better News!**

We are delighted to let you know that Naomi and Steve Lawton had a little girl on the 11 November (Poppy Olivia). Many congratulations!!

## **Octagon Work**

I am sure you all know by now of the new works planned for the Octagon which are due to commence next January. The Committee discussed these plans extensively at their meeting last Wednesday and what it might mean. We discussed changing 'Kinky Boots' with 'Chess' (Westlands being more suitable for 'Chess'), whether we could perform a concert version of 'Chess' and whether it was even possible to get a cast together for the autumn 2021 show (because of the present Covid situation). Of course, everything will depend on when the Octagon work actually commences. So, as you can see, everything is very much in the air at the moment and it is really difficult to let you know anything concrete but please be assured that when anything definite is known we will let you know immediately. If you have any comments to make please let Geoff or Paula know your thoughts.

## **Website**

In the meantime, for any of you who are missing your YAOS fix, try a look at the website, where Guy Burgess has been very busy getting our archives up to date. The history of the Society he has put together is great reading! Thank you, Guy!

## **Edwards House – a message from Mr Nick -**

Just to let you know that Edwards House is being well looked after during Lockdown, and will be ready to welcome our YAOS family back with open arms as soon as we have the all clear to put on our amazing shows once more. At the moment it is being used by The Hub on a daily basis and this is bringing in money for the Society.

## **Edwards House Bookings**

We are delighted that Vicky Hallett has now taken over the supervision of bookings for Edwards House from Lauren (many thanks Lauren!). If you need to contact her regarding this her telephone number is 07929 139993 or email Vicky on [yaosbookings@gmail.com](mailto:yaosbookings@gmail.com). Many thanks Vicky for taking this on for us.

## **Social**

When things allow us to do so we hope to arrange a social event to get everyone together again. Let's hope that isn't too far away now!!

Well, that's about it!! Here's hoping it won't be long until we see you all in person and we get back to pursuing the hobby we all love.

Keep safe and well.

The Committee