



Reminder



Carol Singing, mulled wine and mince pies evening on Tuesday 20th December in the Annexe.

Come along at 9 pm, or earlier, and join the cast of Oliver! for our festive reunion for all members and patrons

Chairman's message

I can hardly believe that Beauty & The Beast is over already. Thank you so much to everyone who helped to make one of our most challenging shows ever, such a success. Hamish, in particular, worked endlessly on both scenery and special effects, as well as being in the show so a big thank you to him. Although the show lost money, we need to look at the positives for the society which are that it attracted both new cast and audience members. A good number of the cast have stayed with us and are in Oliver!.... let's hope the same applies to the audience! What we also discovered was that doing a child friendly show during half term week and including a weekday matinee proved to be very worthwhile financially so we'll certainly be taking this in to consideration for future productions.

This brings us on to Oliver!, rehearsals for which are already well underway. We had an exceptional turnout on audition day, Sunday 13 November, with over 55 auditions and the high standard made for some very difficult decisions. We have a double cast for Oliver, Dodger and Bet but the rest of the cast, including the boys, will all do every performance. This means that we need all the support we can get in terms of matrons so please, please, please can I ask you to get in touch with Jane McMichael (j.mcmichael2@btinternet.com) as we are trying to arrange some training locally in January for new matrons.



Don't forget that on Tuesday 20 December we'll be having savoury nibbles, mince pies, mulled wine and Christmas carols so even if you're not in the show, come along and enjoy some Christmas cheer and a good sing-song!

Work is already underway for Jubilee Show Stoppers – The Diamond Decades – on Friday 1st and Saturday 2nd June. We'll be performing songs from the 50s right through to what seem to have become known as the noughties.... rather than naughties! Once again, if you have any ideas for songs, please do let me know as we'll be fixing the programme before rehearsals start so we can have all the music and rehearsal CDs ready in advance. We are also looking for a person/people to take on the responsibility of preparing the food. This will involve a two course meal on the Friday and Saturday evenings,



Christmas Cracker

Don't forget that this year's Christmas Cracker Carol Concert will be held in the Haslemere Hall at 7.30 pm on Saturday 17th December. It is a fun evening for audience and massed choir. Tickets are £7.50 & £8.50 (£4 & £5 for children) from the Hall (01428 642161) and include mulled wine and mince pie.

As before the Players will be supplying a good part of the choir so there are plenty of people to support. But do book soon; it is always a sell-out and there are not all that many tickets left.

Chairman's Message (continued)

and tea and cake for the Saturday matinee. If you are willing to organize this aspect of the production I would be absolutely delighted to hear from you. We shall be performing extracts from the Show Stoppers on Lion Green on Monday 4th June as part of the Town's celebrations for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee.

This brings me on to the October 2012 production. As you will know, we intended to present How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying. However, whilst being a great production what has become apparent is that this show isn't well known by our audience and potential audience with a great many people saying "you're doing what?". This forced the committee to take a step back and consider whether this really was the best decision for the society. Having weighed up all the pros and cons we decided that perhaps it wasn't, so on went the thinking caps. When researching a replacement we tried to take in to consideration potential ticket sales and the costs of the production. We have also looked for a child friendly show, with this again being in half term week with the potential for a weekday matinee. So, I am delighted to announce that the Players 2012 production will be The Sound of Music with Hamish Donaldson as director and Bob Cantan making a return as Musical Director. More from the production team elsewhere in the newsletter.



All that remains is for me to wish each and every one of you a very Merry Christmas and happy New Year! Here's to a great 2012 for Haslemere Players.

Vicki Gavin

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STUDIO

Thank you to the very small band of volunteers who helped wash/iron/put away all the costumes after Beauty and the Beast. It was a mammoth task but we are now able to get down to the normal Studio business.

We have two new recruits who are joining us to help with costumes but could do with two more to enable us to run a rota system on Saturday mornings. If you know of anyone who might be interested, please let either of us know.

A small plea – could all Studio users please the kitchen area clean and tidy as we are rather weary of washing up piles of mugs!

We would like to thank Doreen and Teresa for guiding us through the transfer process and we still be calling on their expertise when we encounter a problem!

Mary and Mary-Lou

Treasurer's Report

When the committee selected Beauty and the Beast for one of the 2011 productions, there were many points to consider including the high production costs and therefore the very likely probability that the ticket sales may not cover the costs. However this risk was outweighed by the wonderfully fun story, the enjoyment the cast would have in rehearsal and during show week and the chance for the Players to "do something different". It proved to be a fantastic show and we received many compliments.

Having now received all the bills (I hope!), the finances indicate that we have made a loss of £3500, which is a fairly considerable loss to us as a society, but one that we were predicting. Our ticket sales were very good in the end, with many being sold during the week of the show, but with a high number of children in the audience the average ticket price was reduced and this had a major impact on the income. Children also do not buy raffle tickets or programmes so income in these two areas was particularly low. We were also hit by the high royalty costs of 15% plus VAT payable to Disney. On a positive note, we kept our orchestra costs low and I would also like to thank both Vicki and Hamish for keeping a very tight control of our wardrobe and scenery budget! This was no mean feat with new requests for effects and staging coming thick and fast during the final few weeks!

One of the main aims of the Committee is for us to recoup our financial losses and bring the society back to pre 2011 reserves - and you will see this reflected in our choice of future shows. We have also agreed that the "show fee" for Oliver! will be £20, and with the annual acting membership of £25, I am sure you will agree this represents excellent value for money for a most enjoyable hobby.

Sally Barr
Hon Treasurer

THANK YOU FROM MACMILLAN

I was delighted to be invited to the Macmillan 'Thank You' party on 30th November on behalf of the Players. Ros Maule was very effusive in her thanks to the Players for providing Macmillan the opportunity of raising funds with the raffle evening and tickets for Beauty and the Beast. There were lots of interesting people there who all work very hard for this worthwhile cause, especially Ros. The food provided for the buffet was most enjoyable.

Pamela

The Sound of Music

October 23rd to 27th, 2012

Director Hamish Donaldson, MD Robert Cantan.

It is nearly 20 years since the Players last performed the Sound of Music and Robert Cantan was the MD then. Looking at the cast list I see that the part of Liesl was played by Alex Legat (now Yates) who was Belle in Beauty & the Beast.

The story is well known and has universal appeal - Maria, an unconventional postulant (trainee nun), is sent to be Governess to Baron von Trapp's rather beastly children. The way she wins them over



and captures the heart of the (largely absent) Baron is the theme of the story. Always in the background is the ominous rise of Naziism in Austria which precipitates the family's escape into Switzerland.

There are 22 named parts, including Maria, Baron von Trapp, Elsa Schrader (engaged to von Trapp), Max Detweiler (a promoter), Mother Abbess, Liesl and the other six children. The chorus consists of nuns, neighbours, postulants, soldiers and other contestants in the Kaltzberg Music Festival.

The famous songs include *Climb Every Mountain*, *Do-Re-Mi*, *Edelweiss*, *Maria*, and *The Sound of Music*. They would get into any top ten.

The readthrough will unusually be held on a Thursday - the 7th June. The reason is that the Queen's Diamond Jubilee will be celebrated the previous week-end and the national celebrations will spill over into Tuesday 5th. See you then...

Hamish

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



17th December	Christmas Cracker in Haslemere Hall
20th December	Mulled wine and carols in the Annexe
6-14th January	Sleeping Beauty by Haslemere Thespians
24-28th January	Hello Dolly by Farnham Operatic
20-24th March	Oliver! in Haslemere Hall
1st and 2nd June	Jubilee Show Stoppers in Haslemere Hall
4th June	Show Stoppers on Lion Green
Thurs 7th June	Sound of Music read through
17th June	Auditions for Sound of Music

OLIVER!

The auditions for Oliver on 13th November produced one of the highest number of people auditioning that we have ever had, which made for no easy task for the Audition Committee. The standard was very high and we now have a wonderful cast as follows:-



Oliver	Alfie Richards & Monty Vann
Artful Dodger	Andrew Chalmers & Sam Crosby
Nancy	Kate Chesworth
Fagin	Howard Bicknell
Bill Sykes	Chris Bridge
Bet	Lucy Moore & Isabel McMichael
Mr Bumble	Graeme Somerville
Widow Corney	Mary Coyte
Mr Sowerberry	Adrian Stent
Mrs Sowerberry	Debbie Bowyer
Noah	Chris Ackroyd-Parr
Charlotte	Samantha Ryan
Mr Brownlow	Richard Tytler
Mrs Bedwin	To Be Cast
Dr Grimwig	Peter Gardner
Old Sally	Linette Ackroyd

Rehearsals are going very well and you will have a chance to meet the cast on the 20th at the Carols & Mulled Wine evening.

If you get this newsletter through the post and would be happy to receive it by email please send an email to donaldson@haslemere.com Many thanks

Copies of the latest Players Patter are always available on the web site:

www.HaslemerePlayers.com