



Players Patter No 158 - Feb 2013

Chairman's message

What is going on with the weather? I leave the UK for a balmy two weeks in sunny South Africa (sorry, the holiday has to have a mention!), safe in the knowledge that when I get back the snow will be long gone and what do I find when I get back? SNOW!!!

On a positive note, we've only had one rehearsal disrupted by the inclement weather and **Calamity Jane** is shaping up to be a spectacular production. We have an excellent cast including members old (yes, I know you're not really old but you know what I mean!) and new. A very warm welcome to Sue Farley, Ellen Gowers, Shawn Larby, Shane Peterson, Isabelle Providence, David Rathbone, Chris Seabury and Jan Treacher-Evans. Commiserations to Howard Fullbrook, Bill Hudson and Yvonne Peterson who weren't able to join us after all.... we very much hope to see you in future productions. A warm welcome also to the talented Gary & Luan Horner who have joined our set construction team. Our production team are whip-cracking-away everyone in to shape so don't miss out on the best seat.... get your tickets booked now through the Haslemere Hall (www.haslemerehall.co.uk).

This year's **Show Stoppers – A Century of Song** is themed to tie in with the Hall's Centenary. We'll have a wide variety of solos, duets and group numbers from the last 100 years and this year have chosen to make the direction of the show more of a team effort. Coming on board are Mary-Lou Knox with her love and knowledge of the 1940s and Adrian Stent who says he last directed when he was 19 (well, that's only a few years ago!). For those of you who have missed the opportunity to exercise your vocal chords there'll be a few "sing-a-long" numbers so get limbering up. The first rehearsal for Show Stoppers will be on Tuesday 26 March at the School and performances will be at 7.30 pm on Friday 31 May and 2.30 pm and 7.30 pm on Saturday 1 June.

Plans are also well underway for our October production, **HMS Pinafore**. Director, Steph Goodfellow and Musical Director, William Godfree have had several planning meetings (they are combining these with a wine tasting tour of Surrey, Sussex and Hampshire) and have lots of new and exciting ideas for the show. The read-through will be held at the school at 7.30 pm on Tuesday 4 June.

I mentioned in the last newsletter how busy the studio is now getting. We have some regular helpers but we really don't want to overload them so if you feel able to come along between 10-12 on a Saturday morning, we'd love to see you.

Heartfelt congratulations go to Hamish Donaldson (do we really need his surname.... surely there is only one Hamish!) who was awarded an MBE in the Queen's New Year's Honours list for services to the community in Haslemere. More details of Hamish's well deserved achievement elsewhere in the newsletter.

The committee is currently in the final stages of wrestling with the 2014 show choices. Unfortunately, our show of choice for March 2014 isn't available due to some ongoing licensing issues (sometimes these things just aren't meant to be) but I can confirm that in October 2014 the society will be presenting **The Producers** directed by Hamish.

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

2nd March	Mendelssohn's Elijah by Haslemere Music Society
19th-23rd Mar	Calamity Jane in Haslemere Hall
24th-27th April	Nonsense, the Mega Musical by Grayshott Stagers
9th-11th May	The Railway Children by Haslemere Thespians
10th-27th May	Haslemere Festival
1st & 2nd June	Century of Song by Players in Haslemere Hall
4th June	Read-through of HMS Pinafore
11th-15th June	A Sparkling Affair by Farnham AOS
16th June	Principal auditions HMS Pinafore

HAMISH'S MBE

We are delighted to extend our warmest congratulations to Hamish Donaldson who was awarded an exceptionally well deserved MBE in the Queen's New Year's Honours list in recognition of his extensive services to the community of Haslemere. Hamish has been actively involved with Players since his arrival in Haslemere with Linda almost 40 years ago and we are extremely fortunate to have benefited so much from his time, effort and skills. Not only has his fine bass voice been heard in countless productions but he also served as our Chairman for 15 years and continues to support us in every way he can in the role of President. Hamish was the mastermind behind the successful negotiation of the lease on our Studio premises and led the society in raising in excess of £40,000 - a task considered impossible by many. The Studio has proved invaluable to the society as a base for scenery design and construction, costume storage and hire and as a rehearsal venue. Hamish has also directed numerous productions and his infectious enthusiasm has been translated into many excellent shows, earning us four coveted NODA awards. Many of these must surely be down to the "gosh" factor he aims for in every production. However, Haslemere Players is only one string in Hamish's bow and it is only when one becomes aware of the full extent of his other volunteer and charity work that one realises how fortunate we are to be the recipient of so much of his time.

The Haslemere Festival was co-founded by Hamish in the year 2000 promoting the arts, bringing artists from outside our area but also demonstrating what a rich variety of talent exists from within the community. Just a few of the many events organised by the Haslemere Festival are the bi-annual arts festival throughout the month of May, the town's Millennium celebrations, the annual Christmas Cracker and the Queen's Jubilee celebrations.

Hamish has also served as the Chairman of the Diocesan Advisory Committee, a body dealing with all aspects of planning, building and repairs to churches within the Guildford Diocese over a 20 year period. For such dedication, the Bishop recently honoured him as a Lay Canon of Guildford Cathedral. In addition to this he founded the Surrey Churches Preservation Trust - a charity that raises money for the restoration of churches in Surrey by organising fund raising events throughout the county. Hamish has also been a Governor of the Royal School for over 20 years and is currently the Chairman of the Governors. He is actively involved in all aspects of the school's activities including running the School's Sports Car Project, where he leads and teaches the girls in the restoration of old sports cars, which they all love.

Unfortunately, this tribute only touches some of the aspects of Hamish's commitment to our community (he is also a Deputy Lieutenant of Surrey) but hopefully demonstrates why the award is so well deserved. Congratulations Hamish, we are very proud to have you as our President.

Vicky Gavin

CALAMITY JANE HAS HER HORSES!

After a well publicised search for a steed, Calamity Jane has not one, but two horses for the Haslemere Player's traditional pre-performance Walkabout on Saturday, 2nd March thanks to The Haslemere Herald!

Riding to the rescue was top British Eventing Trainer, Lisa Hamilton and her son, Brandon (very recently Frederick in our Sound of Music), of the Ridewell Training School in Hindhead with two family friendly equine characters - Mister and Albie! Lisa and Brandon win two tickets to the show and will be attending the Civic Evening reception.

Accompanied by a colourful cast of Cowboys, Calamity Jane will set off with Mister and Albie from the top of the High Street at 11.00 am on the 2nd, stopping off for impromptu burst of songs from the Show here and there - you won't be able to miss them!

Calamity Jane is showing at Haslemere Hall from Tuesday 19th to Saturday 23rd March 2013 with a 2.30 pm matinee on the Saturday. The chosen charity to support for this show is locally run, The Prostate Cancer Project.

Made famous by the film starring Doris Day, Calamity Jane is the heart-warming story of two peace officers from Deadwood City in Dakota - Calamity Jane, the hard-bitten, gun-toting tomboy and Wild Bill Hickok, the legendary gunfighter turned gambler. They get involved in saving the neck of Henry Miller, the local saloon operator, when he mistakenly engages the appearance of singer, Frances Fryer, not realising that Francis is actually a man! To keep the peace, Calamity sets out for Chicago to bring back the local's real heart-throb, Adelaide Adams..... but not all goes according to plan!

With wonderful songs such as *The Deadwood Stage*, *It's Harry I'm Planning to Marry*, *Windy City*, *The Black Hills of Dakota* and, of course, the Oscar winning romantic ballad, *Secret Love*, you are guaranteed fabulous entertainment - Deadwood style!

Tickets can be obtained from Haslemere Hall - boxoffice@haslemerehall.com or call 01428 642161



GRAPEVINE NEWS OF MEMBERS

Congratulations to Chloe and Richard Johnson-Jones on the birth of Ava Vivienne on 2nd January weighing in at 6lb 11oz. Mother and baby doing well.



HMS Pinafore

October 22nd to 26th, 2013

Director,
Stephanie Goodfellow
MD, William Godfree

H.M.S. Pinafore; or, The Lass That Loved a Sailor is one of the very great comic operas with music by Arthur Sullivan and a libretto by W. S. Gilbert.

The roles are:

- The Rt. Hon. Sir Joseph Porter, KCB, First Lord of the Admiralty (comic baritone)
- Captain Corcoran, Commander of H.M.S. *Pinafore* (lyric baritone)
- Ralph Rackstraw, Able Seaman (our hero, tenor)
- Dick Deadeye, Able Seaman (bass-baritone)
- Bill Bobstay, Boatswain's Mate (baritone)
- Bob Becket, Carpenter's Mate (bass)
- Josephine, The Captain's Daughter (heroine, soprano)
- Cousin Hebe, Sir Joseph's First Cousin (mezzo-soprano)
- Mrs. Cripps (Little Buttercup), A Portsmouth Bumboat Woman (contralto)

Chorus of First Lord's Sisters, His Cousins, His Aunts, Sailors, Marines, etc

The read-through is on June 4th and auditions on Sunday June 16th 2013



Calamity Jane

March 19th to 23rd, 2013
MD, Angela Jones
Choreographer, Debra Allen

Rehearsals for our next production, CALAMITY JANE, are progressing really well.

We are delighted to welcome, following an article in the local press, several new members who have joined the cast and everyone is working very hard to bring this very lively musical show to life.

With a great principal line up, a troop of splendid dancers and a chorus full of colourful characters "The Golden Garter Saloon" is definitely the place to visit. The Scenery, Costumes, Props, and Stage crews are also working hard to ensure that everything is ready for the "Deadwood Stage" to roll into town.

So, please, ask all your friends to mosey on down to the Haslemere Hall to see CALAMITY JANE arrive from the "Windy City", and find her "Secret Love"!

Yee-Haw!!!

Mary Coyte, Angela Jones, and Debra Allen (Production Team)

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

www.HaslemerePlayers.com

If you are getting this newsletter through the post and would be happy to receive it by email, please email Linda.Haslemere@btinternet.com

HASLEMERE PLAYERS - YOU ARE UNDER STARTERS ORDERS FOR THE

GRANDER NATIONAL RACE NIGHT



A great fun, fund raising event is being organised by the Haslemere Players this April 27th at 7.30 pm.

The race night will be staged at The Link, St Bartholomew's Church Hall, Haslemere GU27 1BS

8 races, 8 horses per race, great compère, great food, great raffle and great fun to be had by all

Ticket prices are £10 for adults, £5 for children under 16 (to be purchased in advance)

Bring a bottle of your favourite tippie along with some betting money to test your skill (?) and luck!

For tickets: please contact Michael.Byrne2@sodexo.com
Invite your friends and family and book early to avoid disappointment