



Players Patter No 161 - Oct 2013

www.HaslemerePlayers.com

HMS Pinafore



If you have not already done so, it is time to book your tickets for HMS Pinafore. The dates are Tues 22nd to Sat 26th October at 7.30 pm with a matinée on Saturday 26th at 2.30 pm.

How to Book

- **Telephone** the Haslemere Hall on 01428 642161; Payment by credit/debit card.
- **By post** to Haslemere Hall Box Office, Bridge Road, Haslemere GU27 2AS. Payment by cheque made payable to Haslemere Hall.
- **Online** at www.haslemerehall.co.uk (£2 surcharge per transaction; payment by credit/debit card).
- **In person** at the Haslemere Hall Box Office, Bridge Road, Haslemere GU27 2AS, Mon – Fri 9 am to 1 pm; Saturday 10 am to 12 noon.

	Balcony	Tiered	Stalls
Tuesday	£9.50	£11	£8.50
Wed - Sat	£13.50	£15	£12.50

Concessions: Only one applies.

Groups of 10 or more £1.00 off each ticket.

Seniors £1.00 off Weds & Thurs eve & Sat Matinée.

Under 16s Balcony £7.50, Tiered £8, Stalls £7

Chairman's Message

Well, we've been aboard the **HMS Pinafore** for almost four months now.....the seas have been stormy at times but we're looking forward to clear, calm waters as we make our way into dock in sunny Portsmouth. We've had a huge amount of fun preparing for this show and I think the production team have come up with something which will appeal to both G&S traditionalists and newcomers alike. If you're not in the show, please do come along and support your fellow members either by helping out front of house or just coming and seeing us aboard our saucy ship (Gilbert's words, not mine) from 22-26 October.

I am delighted to announce that Bob & Angela Cantan have agreed to taking on the staging and direction of **South Pacific**, along with Angela Jones as Musical Director. Following on from their success with Oliver!, this will be a show not to be missed. If you'd like to find out more about the parts available or getting involved in any way at all, come along to the read-through at the school on Tuesday 29 October. Auditions will take place on Sunday 10 November at the Haslemere Hall.

Following on from **South Pacific** will be our May/Jun Show Stoppers/Music Hall/Variety production (exact details yet to be decided but please do let us know if you have any thoughts) and then, in October 2014 (my how times flies) we'll be presenting **The Producers** with Hamish Donaldson as Director, joined by Bob & Angela Cantan after a mere two month break, taking on Musical Direction and Staging.

Moving on to the social side of things, we had a good turnout for the annual BBQ on Sunday 4 August.....with more people than ever before taking to the swimming pool to cool off (despite Pam Depledge being absent due to being needed at the birth of her latest grandchild....congratulations Pam!). We try to come up with social events which we think people will enjoy and we also try to be a flexible as we can with regard to asking people to commit too far in advance, however, it is very difficult to cater for these things when anything between 25 and 65 people may turn up so it would

Chairman's letter cont.

be a huge help if some of you could be just a little more definite. Having said that, it was lovely to see everyone who was there! Thank you to all the committee who provided some fantastic salads and puddings and our wonderful cooks, Simon Bowyer and Alan Thornhill.

Friday 13 September (unlucky for some!) brought with it the annual inter-society quiz, hosted this year by the Haslemere Thespian's. Our team comprised Steph Goodfellow, Arry Burford, Mike Byrne, Sally Barr, Rebecca Lucas and myself and I am delighted to report a long overdue victory! The trick, we discovered, was to take full advantage of all clues....so when all the teams were told the day before that there would be a "table round" which would go on throughout the evening called "The home of London theatre" what else could it be other than what show was on at each London theatre.....all I can say is, yes, last minute swotting does work!! Thank you to the Thespian's who put on a great night's entertainment, not to mention a fantastic supper.

Lastly, I am absolutely delighted to report that yet another of the Players has made it in to the West End. Matilda Shapland, one of our Gretls in Sound of Music, is currently appearing as Young Eponine and understudying Little Cosette in the West End production of Les Miserables. Congratulations Matilda!

Vicki Gavin, 68 Victoria Way, Liphook, Hampshire. GU30 7NJ 01428 727144 vickigavin@btinternet.com

PARKING AT THE STUDIO

Just a quick reminder that the car park at the studio is only available for use by Players when we hire the school for rehearsals. Although we own the top 4 spaces, the rest are owned by Toad Hall Nursery and recently they have found that on some days there aren't sufficient spaces available for parents dropping off and collecting children. They are concerned that there may be members of Players who work in the town and are making use of what they believe is the Players' car park. If you would like to try and make arrangements to use the car park, please let us know and we'll see what we can do.

Another polite request as regards the car park. As you will probably have noticed, any parking spaces which were marked are no longer visible and this has led to some fairly thoughtless parking. It would be really big help, particularly on rehearsal nights when the car park gets very full, if people could start parking at the top end of the car park and the next person in could park next to that car rather than in a no man's land in between, leaving large wasted space which is too small to park another car. About two thirds of the space is wasted by people just not thinking.

Spring Show - SOUTH PACIFIC **25th to 29th March 2014**

South Pacific, written by Oscar Hammerstein and Joshua Logan was based on stories from James Michener's 'Tales of the South Pacific'. It was first performed in New York in 1949 and tells the story of Nellie Forbush, a nurse from Little Rock, who is stationed on a Pacific island in World War II. She falls in love with Emile de Becque who is an older local planter. However when she finds out that he is a widower with two half-caste children, she cannot accept the situation because of her small-town upbringing.

In contrast, young Lieutenant Cable from a noble Boston family has no problems at all when he falls in love with the Polynesian, Liat, whose mother is Bloody Mary, the local entrepreneur.

Emile, deeply upset by Nellie's attitude and coldness towards him, joins an American spy mission on a nearby island, and Nellie subsequently realises she is in love. Luckily for her, de Becque escapes when the Japanese attack and he returns to find her caring for his children. His companion on the dangerous mission, Lieutenant Cable, is not so lucky. He is killed and Liat is left alone.

Well known songs include Bali Hai, Dites Moi, Some Enchanted Evening, There is Nothing Like a Dame and 'I'm Gonna Wash That Man Right Out of My Hair'. Comedy is provided by Luther Billis the wheeler-dealer of the US Navy Construction Battalion (Seabees).

All the audition pieces will be available on the website. The two children must be competent performers and preferably they should also be small and light in weight!

The Read-through will be on Tuesday 29th October and principal auditions on Sunday 10th November at 2 pm in the Haslemere Hall.



CHRISTMAS CRACKER

Every year Hamish and Don organise a Carol Concert in the Haslemere Hall on the last Saturday before Christmas. It is a fun event with carols for the audience and for the (massed) choir, as well as comic verse for Christmas. It is also a popular event and generally sells out well before the performance day.

This year's Christmas Cracker will be held in the Haslemere Hall at 7.30 pm on Saturday 21st December. Tickets are £10 & £8.50 (£5 & £4 for under 16s) from the Hall (01428 642161) and include mulled wine and mince pies.

The Players usually supply about half the choir and if you have not taken part before, why not come and join us. Rehearsals are on Wednesdays in the School at 7.30 pm starting on Wednesday 20th November.

Details from Don Stacey 644423.



GRAPEVINE NEWS OF MEMBERS

Congratulations to new grandmother, Pamela and parents Sally and Graham Wadsworth, on the birth of baby Phoebe Pamela on 5th August. Mother, baby and grandmother are doing well.

Congratulations also to Matilda Shapland, who played one of the Gretls in our Sound of Music, who is currently appearing as the young Eponine, and understudying Little Cosette, in the West End performance of Les Miserables at the Queens Theatre.

And congratulations to Eric Foster (who memorably played the trombone as General Tom Thumb in *Barnum*) who has won an organ scholarship to St John's College, at Oxford University. He is also going to be MD for a production of *Chess* in the Spring.

Social Report

A big thank you to Linda and Hamish for once again hosting our Summer Barbeque. We were very lucky with the weather (again). Thank you also to the Committee who provided some wonderful salads and puds. There was the annual quiz plus making paper boats (not totally successfully) for the HMS Pinafore theme.

Haslemere Players strode to victory in this year's inter-society quiz in early September. The superb event hosted by the Haslemere Thespians at the Link in Haslemere where some brilliantly thought through and great fun quiz rounds presented a considerable challenge for the participating teams.

After a slow start the Players made good ground through the charades round and then romped to victory following a table round where shows had to be matched to their current London theatre venues.

A brilliant effort by the team including Vicki Gavin, Mike Byrne, Rebecca Lucas, Sally Barr, Steph Goodfellow and Arabella Burwood.

Overcome by her success and a good few glasses of wine, Vicki committed to the Haslemere Players hosting next year's event. So get you thinking caps on!!

The Committee are looking into a Players Christmas dinner. Let Mike know if you are interested...

Mike Byrne

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It's all hands on deck aboard HMS Pinafore as the cast and creatives move into the final weeks of preparation for The Players' spring production. The studio has been transformed into a boatyard as Adrian, Hamish and their skilled team of shipwrights plank, rig and tar our ship. Meanwhile, in the rehearsal rooms, a fabulous ensemble are readying and steadying themselves for show week. Under the watchful eyes and attentive ears of Angela Jones and William Godfree, the harmonies are ringing out across the waters - or rather the Toad Hall nursery car park; sighingly beautiful at times, at others gloriously exuberant. This is enhanced by some fabulous choreography by Jessi McCluskey and our associate director Jocelyn Brown, who have, with patience and attention to detail, produced some fine routines which range from the wonderfully imaginative to the outrageously funny.

I, meanwhile, sit at the back of the hall supping hot chocolate and basking in the reflected glory. It has been a delight to watch this show grow and evolve. I'm really excited about it and hope I speak for everyone involved when I say that we can't wait to put it in front of an audience. I'm also terrible at keeping secrets so, WHEN you come and see the show, look out for a Les Mis spoof, a reference to our own Guys and Dolls, a hint of Morecambe and Wise, some semaphore and even some campanology. I know. The skills of the Haslemere Players are boundless! It's a great show. We've had a blast putting it together. I'm sure the audience will have a blast watching it.

Stephanie Goodfellow



Dates for Your Diary

22nd – 26th Oct	HMS Pinafore
29th October	Read-through of South Pacific
10th November	Principal auditions for South Pacific in the Haslemere Hall at 2 p.m.
Wed 20th Nov	First rehearsal of Christmas Cracker
23rd to 25th Nov	A Laughing Matter by Grayshott Stagers
21st December	Christmas Cracker in Haslemere Hall
10th - 18th Jan	Dick Whittington Pantomime by Haslemere Thespians
21st-25th Jan	Jane Eyre by Farnham Operatic