



Players Patter No 166 - Nov 2014

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TREASURER'S REPORT

I have yet to finalise the accounts for *The Producers* but certainly it was more financially successful than we originally expected it to be. Choosing a show that is not child friendly is always a slight risk and the tickets sales for the Saturday matinee represented this loss of revenue fairly starkly. However it was well attended on other nights and feedback on all those leaving the show was very positive indeed. I personally thought it was one of the funniest productions that I have seen the Players put on. Some of the costs of the production were significantly higher than in other shows – specifically the scenery – but we were lucky enough to have a generous donation specifically towards the scenery which helped balance the books a little more evenly. I will provide you with a final breakdown of the costs in the next newsletter when all the expenditure and revenue has been accounted for. Thank you also to Mr Peter Mobsby for his kind donation of £100 which was very welcome.

No rest for the wicked and we are now well underway with *Fiddler on the Roof*. Congratulations to all those who are in the show – 48 in total I believe – you will all, I am sure, be eager to pay your show fees to me and I will endeavour to attend rehearsals at regular intervals over the coming weeks to collect these from you. You can also pay by BACS, Paypal or indeed by sending me a cheque to the address below. The show fees are £20 for adults and £10 for under 16's.

Linda and I will also be collecting any final overdue membership subscription fees in the coming weeks. Again these can be paid by BACS, Paypal or cheque either to Linda (Donaldson) or myself. The on-going member and patron subscriptions are vital to the financial stability of the society and we are always looking for new members and Patrons so if you know anybody who is interested in joining please put them in touch with either Linda or myself.

Arabella Burwood, Treasurer
Tall Trees
Mead Road
Hindhead
Surrey GU26 6SG

Chairman's Message

I can't believe that Christmas will soon be upon us! In the last newsletter I was thanking everyone for their help with this year's BBQ and now here we are, about to talk mulled wine and mince pies!

The big news this time is the success of *The Producers*. I'm yet to hear a negative comment from audience members I've spoken to, it's just such a shame there weren't more of them! We took a risk, knowing that the show wouldn't be to everyone's taste but on the up side, attracted some new audience members who were so impressed with the quality of the production they've promised to come and see future shows. There have been nothing but compliments for the cast "not a weak link"....."any one of the principals could have been in the West End" and the praise for the show overall was endless. Thanks must go to the production team, Bob and Angela Cantan as MD and Choreographer respectively but in particular Hamish who not only directed the show but also led the set construction team.....and in terms of set, this show was of gargantuan proportions. On that note, as stage manager, I'd like to say an enormous thank you to everyone who helped back stage during the course of the show. We settled on 13 crew/props being a comfortable (I use the term lightly!) number to deal with all the set changes and as not all were able to do every night, we had a total of 22 crew over the course of the week. So much help is needed behind the scenes so if ever you're not in a show, do consider joining the back stage or front of house teams as it's a great way to be involved with all the fun during the week of the show without the commitment of 4 months of rehearsals.

Now, of course, we're on to *Fiddler on the Roof* where we welcome back Steph Goodfellow as director who is joined by Joce Brown as Assistant Director and Justin Luke as MD. Needless to say, as with all Goodfellow productions, expect the unexpected. The *Fiddler*, it transpires, is a carpenter and scaffolding will feature as part of the set. However, rest assured other areas remain traditional (personally, as Golde, I'd be happy not to be peeling potatoes on stage but apparently it's in character so what can I do!). We have an extremely strong cast of 48 and this promises to be a really excellent production.

Chairman's letter cont.

We still need to choose our October 2016 show so if you have any suggestions, please do let us know.

On now to the social side of things. This Friday (28 November) we will be hosting the annual Inter-Society quiz at the Link, adjacent to St Bartholomew's Church. We are still a couple of people short for the team and always welcome supporters (at a cost of £3 which includes a meal). If you'd like to come along, please contact Mike Byrne on Michael.Byrne2@sodexo.com.

Following on from that, we have the aforementioned mulled wine and mince pies....oh...and of course some Christmas Carols at 9 pm in the annexe on Tuesday 23 December to round off our final rehearsal before the Christmas break. All our welcome, whether you're involved in the show or not.

We have also decided to run another skittles evening on Saturday 31 January 2015. We will have teams for a skittles tournament and the price of the evening includes a pub meal. This was a great event and very well attended the last time we did it a few years ago. Again, if you would like more information please contact Mike Byrne on the email address above.

So, all that remains is for me to say Merry Christmas, enjoy the festive season and here's to a healthy and prosperous New Year for us all.

Vicki Gavin

✉ 68 Victoria Way, Liphook, Hampshire. GU30 7NJ
☎ 07827 331320 ✉ vmgavin68@gmail.com



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.

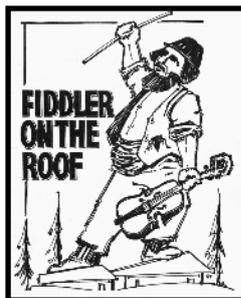
After 15 years, this year's Christmas Cracker will be the last one - so not to be missed. In the Haslemere Hall at 7.30 pm on Saturday 20th December. Tickets are £10 & £8.50 (£5 & £4 for under 16s) from the Hall (01428 642161) and include mulled wine and mince pies.

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 26th November.

Details from Don Stacey 644423.

*Contributions to the Newsletter to
Linda Donaldson
Linda.haslemere@btinternet.com*

Spring Show - FIDDLER ON THE ROOF 24th to 28th March 2015



We have had our first rehearsal for Fiddler on the Roof in which an enormous, energetic, enthusiastic and frankly rather excitable cast threw themselves into dance routines, mime, and on stage costume changes; not to mention making a gloriously thunderous sound in 'Tradition'! It's going to be quite an opening to this beautiful and boisterous show.

The nursery school roof lost a few tiles and a couple of car alarms went off in Grayswood but aside from that it was a cracking first rehearsal. We're all looking forward to the next one.

Following the auditions, here is a list of the Principals:-

Tevye	Doug McLeod
Golde	Vicki Gavin
Tzeitel	Chloe Johnson-Jones
Hodel	Rebecca Lucas
Chava	Sam Ryan
Shprintze	Verity Foster
Bielke	Sophie Brownbill
Motel	Alan Thornhill
Perchik	Not yet cast
Fyedka	Peter Foster
Yente	Judy Fowler
Lazar Wolf	Adrian Stent
Fruma Sarah	Christine Foster
Grandma Tzeitel	Elizabeth Chester
Avram	Chris Bridge
Rabbi	Mark Waters
Rabbi's son	Peter Lucas
Constable	Chris Lloyd

Social Report

A big thank you to Linda and Hamish for hosting the Video evening last Friday. There was a good turnout at Edgecombe even if we were all a little 'cosy'. Thank you to all those who brought food and drink. It was lovely to look back and have a marvel at what we accomplished and a good laugh.

This Friday we are hosting the annual Inter-Society Quiz to be held in The Link attached to St. Bartholomew's church at 7.30 p.m. Do come and cheer your team on – we will need your support! For £3 a head you can have a meal as well.

Then at 9 p.m. on Tuesday, 23rd December we will be having our usual Carol singing with mince pies and mulled wine. Finally on Saturday, 31st January we will be having a Skittles Evening once again, the price of which will include a pub meal. So please mark the date in your diaries as it promises to be a fun evening.

Michael Byrne
michael.byrne2@sodexo.com 01428 642637

PLAYERS PAST : Previous productions of Fiddler on the Roof in 1976 and 1999

As a show *Fiddler on the Roof* is a very moving experience for both cast and orchestra. But in the 1976 version there was nearly a walkout of the orchestra! They took exception to being bombarded with broken crockery and feathers from cushions each time the Russian soldiers ransacked Tevye's home during the wedding scene. The irrepressible Ted Roberts, who played in the brass section of the orchestra for nearly 30 years got out a white flag of surrender and hung it from the side of his French horn. Doreen took advice from Jewish sources and presented an authentic Jewish wedding ceremony and set correct steps for the Russian dances. Having played Tzeitel the bride on that occasion, I am still friendly with my husband Motel (John Sugden), who I married under a canopy in traditional Jewish custom. We still tell people of our 'marriage'.

We also managed to buy, through the NODA News, a complete set of costumes from Bingley (Yorkshire) OS and then sold them on again to another company at a small profit. We had a magnificent Tevye the milkman in Graham Maguire playing opposite another Haslemere favourite, Anne Manning, as Golde. Other leads were taken by Barbara Thomas, Angela Cantan, Pat Bayston, Peter Jones and Tony Siddle (who sadly died two months ago). The show also marked the on-stage debut of Hamish, recruited earlier as a scene shifter. After he had deafened cast and backstage crew by singing in the wings, it was decided we would be better off with him on stage. He auditioned for most of the male parts in *Fiddler*, re-writing some of the tenor lines so they were in his range, and ended up with Lazar Wolf, the butcher who, as Tzeitel, I rejected as a husband.

For the second showing of *Fiddler* in 1999, Doreen Wylde was again teamed with Robert Cantan as director and MD respectively. As she always declares it her favourite show ever, she was delighted to do it again for Haslemere (after previous showings in Farnham and Alton). The timing was particularly poignant as it occurred when the dreadful events in Kosova and Chechnya were filling our TV screens daily. In fact several of the audience admitted that they were so moved by the action that they felt reluctant to clap. In some ways that was sad as the standard was amazing. This time we had Tony Ostime from Farnham as Tevye and Anne Manning reprised her role as Golde. Other Fosters were in the cast again with Jonathan as Motel the bridegroom and Christine as the middle daughter Hodel. Other main roles were played by Laura Musco, Clare Hosmer, Gunnar Cauthery and Phil Elliott. Hamish again appeared as Lazar Wolf. This was the last production of the 20th century and a fitting one to close over a hundred years in the life of the Haslemere Players.

Fay Foster



GRAPEVINE NEWS OF MEMBERS

Sadly, firstly I have to report the death of two of our older members:-

Margaret Graham died peacefully on 13th October at the Hospice of the Good Shepherd in Chester having had cancer since 2010. Her first show with us was in 1945 for *The Gondoliers* and she stayed with us until *Viva Mexico* in 1974.

Sadly we also heard from Simon Fitcher, her son, that Jo Fitcher has died aged 93 in Chichester. Jo was Wardrobe Mistress for us in the 1960's and, in fact, for *White Horse Inn* she made all the costumes. Later she was made a Life Member of the Society. Her funeral is on Thursday, 27th November at Chichester Crematorium.

Those of you who watch *Downton Abbey* and have a keen eye, may have noticed the very handsome young Atticus who is the son of Peter and Sue Barber. He is obviously keeping up the family tradition and it was lovely to see him on TV.

Congratulations to Elizabeth and Graham Chester on becoming grandparents to little Isla Sophia on 26th September.

Those of you who remember Gill and Trevor Ricketts will be interested to know that after more than 24 years living in France, they are now moving back to England and are looking for somewhere to live on the south coast. Hopefully more news to follow of where they decide to settle.



Dates for Your Diary

28th November	Inter-society quiz night
20th December	Christmas Cracker in Haslemere Hall
23rd December	Players Carols and Mince Pies in the Annexe
31st January	Players Skittles Evening
9th to 17th Jan	Jack & the Beanstalk by Haslemere Thespians
27th to 31st Jan	Pirates of Penzance by Farnham AOS
24th to 28th March	Players' Fiddler on The Roof