



Players Patter No 167 - Feb 2015

www.HaslemerePlayers.com

Treasurer's Report

As promised in the last newsletter I can now provide some information as to the final figures for The Producers and this has just broken even. It is a little disappointing that ticket sales did not increase more during show week as the feedback from the audience leaving was extraordinarily complimentary with several people returning for more. As I said previously it was not a child friendly show so we lost a lot of our Saturday matinee audience. However it is what it is and we must now work hard to ensure that our shows this year are slightly more lucrative. Here is hoping Fiddler on the Roof pulls in the crowds!

Show fees continue to be a real issue to collect despite Vicki putting a Paypal link on the cast information page of the website. Therefore we have decided to introduce a new policy and from here on in the show fee for our two main productions during the year will rise to £30 but if you pay it within four weeks of rehearsals starting it will drop to the normal £25. For Showstoppers the show fee will be £15 dropping to £10 if it is paid by Tuesday 5th May. Anybody paying after this date will pay £15. I hope this will encourage all of you involved to dig deep quickly – short term pain – long term gain!

At a fairly quiet time of year financially don't forget to recommend our fantastic studio of costumes to any friends, families or organisations that may be looking to hire outfits for parties or productions. Mary-Lou Knox and Mary Coyte who run the Wardrobe and Costume Hire can be contacted by email via the Haslemere Players website.

Any questions or queries please email me at arabellaburwood@gmail.com

If you receive this newsletter by post and would be happy to receive it by email please let me know.
linda.haslemere@btinternet.com

Chairman's Message

In the last newsletter I was wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and now I'm getting ready to say Happy Easter. Time just goes too quickly!

Rehearsals are going really well for **Fiddler on the Roof** and it's shaping up to be an excellent production. All the time that Steph and Joce aren't rehearsing for Fiddler, they seem to be planning rehearsals for Fiddler....a lot of work is also going on with costumes and the scenery promises to be a little different to what you might expect. It's going to be an excellent show so we're relying on all of you to spread the word and support your fellow members. The show runs from Tuesday 24 to Saturday 28 March.

Jonathan is also well underway with his planning for **Show Stoppers – Memories of the Movies, Part II** (actually, he's also tentatively mentioned a part III so we have LOTS to look forward to). This year's show includes a James Bond section, a magnificent tap number and lots, lots more. We'll again be producing a ploughman's style supper for the evening performances and tea and home-made cakes for the matinee. Do come along and get involved.....whether that's on stage as part of the cast or off stage helping with food, waitressing or bar. Tickets are already on sale and the show is on Friday 5 and Saturday 6 June.

Steph and Joce are also starting to give thought to **How to Succeed in Business** and I'm delighted to confirm that Justin has agreed to MD this show for us.

A number of members went to see the Guildford School of Acting production of **Sister Act** last week. WOW! What a show. It's going to be fun, energetic and, to put it bluntly, an absolute blast! What's really great is that there are parts for all ages. We'll be welcoming Howard Bicknell and Lizzie Hales as MD, both making their debut as part of a Player's production team. They are both super excited about the show and have lots of ideas to make it a hit with both cast and audiences.

I mentioned in the last newsletter that we still need to choose our October 2016 show and asked for suggestions....sadly....not a sausage from anyone. The committee is elected to represent

Chairman's letter cont.

the members so you could argue it's our job... but it would be nice to know what you think.

Sadly, it's not all good news. We recently learned that Teresa Marsh had passed away after a long battle with motor neurone disease. There is a tribute to Teresa elsewhere in the newsletter but I can't close without mentioning what a wonderful member of the society Teresa was. A talented actor, director, dancer and choreographer who will be greatly missed. She was also part of the team who set up our fantastic wardrobe facility at the studio, giving hours of time each week to maintaining all our costumes. I know that everyone who knew or knew of Teresa will join me in sending sincere condolences to Peter and all Teresa's family.

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

THROUGH THE AGES WITH THE HASLEMERE PLAYERS

50 years ago

For the company's Diamond Jubilee in March 1965, Johann Strauss's *Die Fledermaus* was staged, with Leonard Springate as director. So many people wanted to appear that it was decided that, since the operetta had three acts, many of the chorus would appear in two acts only. The cast was very professional as was noted by the Herald critic. With Don Stacey, playing the part of Frosch, it was commented that "he acted with such enthusiasm as the drunk sergeant of the jail that he had trouble with his moustache". But, the critic continued, "he carried off that little difficulty with commendable skill"!

40 years ago

"A daringly difficult undertaking" was how the Herald described the Players' attempts at putting on *My Fair Lady*. With Don as producer, it was remarked that "even ten years ago this would have been an impossible dream". Anne Manning delighted as Eliza, with Peter Mobsby on top form as Higgins and the irrepressible Brian Cockell as Dolittle. John Hilder who is still a regular Grayshott Stager, gave an excellent performance as the lovelorn Freddy. There was some great choreography by Angela Cantan, particularly in the lively Cockney routines.

30 years ago

The exotic *Kismet* with its haunting Borodin melodies was presented in March. Doreen Wylde was director and an ex-military musician, John Hobson, was MD. Staging was a challenge, particularly as the wicked Wazir (Hamish) had to be drowned in full view of the audience. When pushed into a 'fountain' Hamish did his nightly routine of gurgling, throat-rattling and waving of legs before he disappeared under the water for the third time. Myra Cohen and Graham Maguire were superb in the leading roles, with Jo Merrett a deliciously seductive Lalume.

SOCIAL

Our next Social Evening is going to involve you getting your dancing shoes on! We are planning a Jive Dancing evening with professional instructors so you can learn or practice your favourite steps! We are hoping to get a great turnout for what will be a fun evening. The date, time and venue will be confirmed soon.

Susanna Lloyd (susanna@familylloyd.net)



20 years ago

Camelot was presented in the spring with Audrey Gearing and Milva Sandison as producer and MD. Sadly audiences were well down and the loss on the show of £2,200 was serious. Richard White, another regular Stager, and Caroline Foster played the leads King Arthur and Guenevere. and Teresa Marsh was a wonderfully evil Morgan le Fay. As the whimsical King Pellinore, Peter Jones shared the stage with Horrid, an enormous great Dane, and Pam Depledge had her best role to date as the ethereal Nimue. Young Jeremy Legat, excellent in the role of Tom of Warwick went on to greater things and is now a regular on the West End stage.

10 years ago

Barnum seemed a challenge too far for the company but director Hamish was determined to prove his critics wrong – and how he succeeded! In the lead role David McClelland was a real find, a semi-professional who amazed all by actually walking across the stage on a tightrope! Steph Goodfellow's debut as Charity Barnum, his wife, was also a superb performance. Vicki Gavin was in her element as Joyce Heth, the Oldest Woman Alive, and young Eric Foster, as the diminutive Tom Thumb, gained a NODA award for the most promising youth performance. His mother Christine, appearing as the Swedish Nightingale, actually took lessons in Swedish to get her accent right! Hamish had added some novel touches, among them casting his daughter Sally as the White-Faced Clown who shadowed Charity as times of crisis. Often there were no less than fifteen juvenile performers on stage - clowns, jugglers, diabolo artists, unicyclists, plate spinners, a tumbler and two very tall stilt-walkers. Some had been recruited from Bohunt School where circus tricks had been offered as an extra activity. Well disciplined throughout, they coped well with the routines ably choreographed by Teresa Marsh. Hamish deservedly gained a NODA Accolade of Excellence for this triumphant production.

Fay Foster

Teresa Marsh

A couple of weeks ago, we were all very saddened to hear of the death of Teresa Marsh on the 17th February after a long and very courageous fight against Motor Neurone Disease, a progressive and debilitating illness. She leaves husband Peter and their two daughters, Caroline and Christina.

Teresa and Peter met at an audition for Aladdin in the late 60s for ICI Plastics Division's theatre club in Welwyn Garden City. She got the Aladdin role; Peter became Widow Twankey. They were both keen amateur dramatists from the beginning, appearing in plays at the Barn Theatre in WGC, in musicals and Old Time Musical Halls. Teresa could act, sing and dance with equally superb skill. She was a teacher at a school in WGC, and she used to teach the children some of her talents, and produce plays for them. The Marsh's moved to Headley in 1974 and 'almost before I turned off the ignition' she was looking for clubs to join... and they were Haslemere Players, Haslemere Thespians, Grayshott Stagers, Alton Operatic & Dramatic Society and Headley Theatre Club.

Teresa, a school teacher in her professional life, joined the Haslemere Players in 1975 for Showboat and has been a member (and Life Member in 2006) ever since. She was amazingly talented; she acted, she sang, she danced, she choreographed and she directed. She also took leading roles, most notably Gigi in the show of the same name and Tracy Lord (the Grace Kelly part) in High Society. Her production of Oliver! in 1988 won a NODA award, she directed ten excellent Music Halls and her productions of The Desert Song (1984), Mikado (1997), My Fair Lady (2001) and King & I (2006) were also memorable. A special memory is of her comic interludes in the Music Hall (one hugely funny one being 'The Green Eye of the Little Yellow God' she did with Peter, to great hilarity from the audience!)

But her performances for other Societies were equally memorable and all the Societies have paid great tribute to both her professionalism, but also her sense of fun. Will Forde writes: "So sad that Teresa is no longer with us, I've known Teresa as far back as my memory goes; a warmer, kinder and selfless person you couldn't hope to meet. She was wise and passionate, a talented actress and had a sense of fun that was infectious to all who were lucky enough to know her. The thing I will remember most is her smile; she had a way of smiling at me (whether I was 5, 15, or 25) that made me feel like it was a smile she reserved just for me. We will all miss her."

She will indeed be missed by members of all the local Societies for whom she contributed so much and who all much appreciated her professional approach, kindness and enthusiasm. Our best wishes to Peter and their girls.

Hamish Donaldson

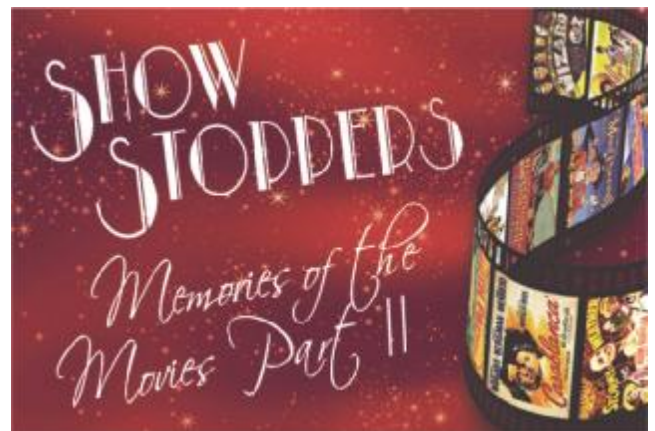


Teresa in a recent Headley Theatre Club production

Show Stoppers 2015 – Memories of the Movies Part II

Following last year's sell-out show, this year's Show Stoppers will be another exciting programme of popular show-stopping songs made famous on the Silver Screen. Enjoy memorable masterpieces including a tribute to Gracie Fields, a salute to James Bond and featuring songs from a wide range of films including *Casablanca*, *Mary Poppins*, *Hans Christian Andersen*, *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*, *The Wizard of Oz*, *The Phantom of the Opera*, *The Sound of Music*, *Mamma Mia!*, *Bugsy Malone*, *Oliver!* and *The Lion King*.

Curtain up at 7.30pm on Friday 5th June and 2.30 & 7.30 pm on



Saturday 6th June. The evening performances include a delicious two-course supper and the matinée performance is accompanied by tea and cakes.

Tickets priced at £15.50 (£12.50) for the evening performances and £10.50 (£9.50) for the matinée are available now from Haslemere Hall – 01428 642161 or online at www.haslemerehall.co.uk. See www.haslemereplayers.com for more details.

We have already sold 30 tickets for Friday evening – so don't delay, book today!

The Read-through is in the Studio on Tuesday 31st March and rehearsals start on April 7th.

If you would like to be involved in the show and haven't yet been in touch with director Jonathan Foster, please contact him at jcpdvfoster@tinyworld.co.uk



GRAPEVINE NEWS OF MEMBERS

Christmas brought news of Life Member, Jane Hamlyn, who continues to lead a happy and incredibly busy life down in Devon. She sings with at least three choirs but misses being able to get up for our shows and see you all.

Congratulations to Laura Wylde, Doreen's granddaughter, who won the Gold Medal at the 6th World Kickboxing and Karate Championships in Portugal. She is now the World Champion for the 2nd year running after winning in 2013 in Italy. Laura has a degree in Chemistry and is now taking a second degree in Sports Physiotherapy. She also has a very proud Granny, and rightly so.

A note for your diaries. On Wednesday and Thursday, 27th and 28th May, a number of Players will be appearing in a concert performance of Purcell's Dido and Aeneas as part of the Haslemere Festival. This will take place in St. Christopher's Church at the top of Weyhill and starring will be Adrian Stent, Richard Arthur, Leanne Osgood and Sarah Thomas.

Very sadly, this last month has brought us three deaths of past members. Many of you will remember Marian Price, our rehearsal accompanist in the 80's to the early 90's who has died recently. One of her daughters, Helen, was in the cast of *The Matchgirls* in 1991 and the other, Kathryn, who has since made a name for herself professionally, played cello in our orchestra for several productions.

Last week, many Players attended the funeral of Olwyn Gavin, Vicki's mum. Olwyn was a great supporter of the Players; she was a Patron for many years and she loved painting scenery. Our picture (below) shows the '7 Dwarfs' she painted for one of Hamish's Music Hall's. Our sympathy goes to Vicki on her great loss.

Many of you will have heard the sad news about Teresa Marsh and Hamish's tribute is on the previous page. Teresa's funeral will be at 12 noon on Wednesday 13th March at Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Haslemere.

Linda



PS The cast provided the heads!

FIDDLER ON THE ROOF

The cast and my fellow directors are looking forward to (and vaguely terrified about) putting our work in front of an audience in three weeks time. Three weeks! I hope you are listening cast.



We can't wait for you and all our audience to see our quirky and cheeky adaptation of this beautiful, poignant and wonderfully witty show, *Fiddler on the Roof*. It's terribly unprofessional of me to give away tricks of the trade but I'm really bad at keeping secrets; you should see our choreographed scene changes, our slow mo fight scene, our pre set mime, our sparkling young couples and a chorus who have more to do than most of the leads put together! Come and join us for the ride.

Stephanie Goodfellow

Stephanie.goodfellow@btinternet.com



Dates for Your Diary

24th – 28th Mar

Fiddler on the Roof

Tues 31st March

Read-through of **Show Stoppers**

Tues 7th April

First rehearsal of **Show Stoppers**

30th Apr - 2nd May

The Vagina Monologues by

Haslemere Thespians

15th -31st May

Haslemere Festival

Fri 6 & Sat 7 June

Show Stoppers

Tues 9 June

Read-through of **How to Succeed**

Tues 16 June

Players AGM at the School

Sun 21 June

How to Succeed Principal auditions

Tues 20–Sat 24 Oct

How to Succeed in Haslemere Hall