



# Players Patter No 169 - July 2015

## Treasurer's Report

As reported at the recent AGM it gives me great pleasure to announce a surplus for the financial year May 2014-April 2015 of £1664 which is quite an exceptional result. Both Showstoppers (2014) and Fiddler on the Roof generated a healthy surplus but not unexpectedly The Producers made a small loss. We have not had any major outgoings for the society over the past financial year which has boosted our surplus. The wardrobe costs for Fiddler on the Roof were very low indeed and for this I must thank Mary Lou Knox and Mary Coyte - Debbie Bowyer has worked exceptionally hard to raise advertising for the programmes over the past year and I would like to say a hearty thank you to her for all her hard work.

There are lots of other people behind the scenes who contribute to the success of the players throughout the year and a big thank you to all of you – you all know exactly who you are but special mention must be given to Vicki who really does work so hard to ensure the Players goes from strength to strength whilst many musical theatre groups around us are falling on hard times and sometimes having to disband completely. There has been talk of making changes to some of our fee policies recently but at the most recent committee meeting it was unanimously decided that the membership fee and show fee are very reasonable compared with other Societies our size and should stay as at present. Anybody wishing to audition for a part in one of our productions must be a fully paid up member of the society (£25 for a full year). In addition a quite separate show fee of £25 is due to cover the cost of each production and this is payable by both principal and chorus members of the production.

Show fees are now due for *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying* and can be paid to myself or Pamela Depledge at rehearsals. They can also be paid by BACS and Paypal. May I remind you that the fee will increase to £30 on 19th August and yes, I am back from my hols by then so this will be implemented!! No trying to sneak a crafty week or two more my friends!!! Still on the subject of trying to extract money from you all may I also remind you that membership subs are now due and I would be grateful if you could send them to Linda Donaldson our Membership Secretary. Her address is Edgcombe, Hill Road, Haslemere, Surrey GU27 2JN.

Arabella Burwood, Treasurer  
07811 439694 [arabellaburwood@gmail.com](mailto:arabellaburwood@gmail.com)

## Chairman's message

We are so lucky to have Mary-Lou Knox and Mary Coyte, assisted by Sue Farley and Steph Ridler looking after our wonderful store of costumes. This is an excellent resource for the society, saving us hundreds of pounds on costumes for our own shows and also bringing in additional funds from hire of costumes. In the coming year we plan to do more advertising and enhance the page on our website with photographs of some of the costumes in action to demonstrate the variety of what we have on offer.

Thanks also to Steph Ridler and Alison Owen, assisted by Annie Garland who have, over the years, collected an impressive selection of props and beg, borrow and steal all that we need for our shows. Doing props for a show can be an enormous task and we should never under-estimate how lucky we are to have a regular team of experts on hand.

Scenery is also a mammoth task so a huge thank you to Hamish Donaldson, Adrian Stent and Gary & Luan Moorshead (congratulations on their recent marriage) who are our team of stalwarts.

Also, I must say a huge thank you to Linda for producing Players' Patter for us and keeping us all up to date and for her continued work as Membership Secretary which is I know from experience is an enormous help to Arry, as treasurer.

Finally, a huge thank you to the committee who, I think, often get overlooked. Sometimes we don't notice the things which "just happen" but we need to remember that somebody, somewhere, is making them happen.....thank you to Pamela, Arry, Bill, Debs, Chris, Susannah, Sally and Adrian. Thanks also to Chloe Johnson-Jones and Mike Byrne who stood down from the committee this year....just let me know when you're ready to be re-elected! Speaking of re-elections, we now have [spaces on the committee](#) so please do read the more detailed notice elsewhere in the newsletter.

I must, of course, mention this year's **Show Stoppers** which was a sell-out for both evening performances and, as you'll read in Arry's report, made a healthy surplus. A huge thank you to Jonathan who I know really gives this production his all.....his enthusiasm, his time.....and his entire family. I'm delighted to announce that Jonathan has agreed to complete the trilogy by directing next year's Show Stoppers.

Rehearsals are now underway for **How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying** (henceforth known as simply HTS). We have a brilliant production team of Stephanie Goodfellow as director, assisted by Joce Brown as Co-director, Justin Luke as

## Chairman's Message continued

Musical Director and Alex Mackintosh as Director's Assistant/Dance Captain.

Plans are also coming on well for **Sister Act**....and all you men, don't be put off thinking all the good parts are for women....there's lots for everyone.

I'm also delighted to announce that our October 2016 production will be **Singin' in the Rain** directed by Hamish Donaldson with Bob Cantan as Musical Director and Jess McCluskey as Choreographer.

Many of you will remember the excellent celebration we had at Cowdray Golf Club for our Centenary in 2005 and I'm pleased to announce that we will be holding a **110 Year Anniversary Ball** on Saturday 5 December 2015 at The Georgian House Hotel. We do hope that lots of you will be able to join us for this evening of festivities. More information to follow but for now please put the date in your diaries.

Vicki Gavin

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01428 727144 [vickigavin@btinternet.com](mailto:vickigavin@btinternet.com)

## Social Report

This year's annual BBQ Event will again be held at the home of Jane and Izzie McMichael on Sunday August 9th from 12.30 pm. Their address is Woodpeckers, Church Lane, Haslemere, GU27 2BJ.

Tickets are available from Susanna Lloyd ([susanna@familylloyd.net](mailto:susanna@familylloyd.net)) or any member of the Committee - £7.50 for Adults and £3.50 for children to cover all food costs.

A sumptuous array of food will be provided. All you need to bring along is something to drink and a chair or blanket to sit on.... And of course your swimming costume to make use of the lovely pool.

Let me know if you need more information.

Best wishes, Susanna.



## YOUR COMMITTEE NEEDS YOU!

The society rules suggest that the committee be made up of the chairman, treasurer and secretary and 7 other members, with an option to co-opt a further 2, making a total of 12. However, following this year's AGM, we find ourselves with only 9 and it would be great to have a few more volunteers to share the workload. There are lots of different areas to get involved with and whilst we want to work to be split fairly, we are conscious that people have different commitments outside Players....family, work etc. so we also try to make sure that everyone is comfortable with what they are being asked to do. If you might be interested in joining the committee and would like to know more about what might be involved, have a chat with one of the existing committee members listed below or contact me.

We know you're busy and may feel that joining the main committee is more than you want to take on but another alternative is joining one of our new sub-committees? Susannah Lloyd is our main social person on the committee so she will be leading a **Social Sub-committee**. Social is a fun area to be involved in because it revolves partly around arranging social events. It also includes things like making sure we have enough tea, coffee, hot chocolate etc. for rehearsals and that things are left tidy at the end of the evening, organising refreshments for the dressing rooms during show week, arranging the after show party, organising the show raffle, orchestra tea for the band call, tea and biscuits for the panel and readers in at the main auditions and various other bits and pieces. As you can see, there are many things which aren't huge jobs in isolation but they can grow in to a mammoth task if all left to one person. If you feel you might be able to spare a bit of time and would like to get involved, please contact Susannah on [Susannah@familylloyd.net](mailto:Susannah@familylloyd.net) or have a chat with her at rehearsal.

We're also looking for people to join our **Marketing & Publicity Sub-committee**. This is a really important aspect of what we do and we have several people from the main committee involved. The first is Debbie Bowyer who, over the last few years, has built excellent relationships with the local press and deals with all our PR activity. She writes our press releases and the copy for all our publicity material and generally schmoozes at every opportunity. She also deals with selling most of the advertising in our programmes, an area where she would really welcome some help. She works alongside Carolyn Lane who designs all our publicity material including logos, posters, flyers and the programme for our shows. Bill Hudson is our king of social media, regularly posting to both Twitter and Facebook and Sally Barr, our marketing coordinator pulls everything together, ensures our mailings are sent on time, arranges for posters and roadside signs to be put up and taken down and deals with the local council with regard to our banner above Weyhill. There are always areas where you can help with publicity. To find out more please contact Sally on [sal\\_barr@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:sal_barr@yahoo.co.uk).

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Arry Burwood	Treasurer	<a href="mailto:arabellaburwood@gmail.com">arabellaburwood@gmail.com</a> , 01428 606868
Christopher Lloyd	Vice-Chairman	<a href="mailto:christopher@familylloyd.net">christopher@familylloyd.net</a> , 01428 644 187
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Linda Donaldson	Membership Secretary	<a href="mailto:linda.haslemere@btinternet.com">linda.haslemere@btinternet.com</a> , 01428 644473

## CONGRATULATIONS TO ANDY BOUGHTON AND THE GRAYSHOTT STAGERS

Very many congratulations are due to Andy Boughton who produced The 39 Steps for the Grayshott Stagers and which has just been deservedly recognised by receiving a

## THROUGH THE AGES WITH THE HASLEMERE PLAYERS

### 50 YEARS AGO

In the year 1965 we only did one show and I have already included memories of "Die Fledermaus" performed in October. However in November that year, the D'Oyly Carte company (who produced all the Gilbert and Sullivan repertoire in the days before the copyright ran out) came to the Rex Cinema, Haslemere (where Rex Court now stands on the Liphook Road). They provided the four main soloists and the chorus was made up of members of Haslemere, Petersfield and Godalming Operatic Societies. There were two rehearsals in the week beforehand, we amateurs being taught by the professional MD, William Cox Iffe. The Rex was packed for the occasion and it was great singing along as part of the world-renowned company.

### 40 YEARS AGO

In August 1975 Haslemere Hall was the venue for the Silver Wedding party of Bill and Doreen Wylde, with members of the Players and Farnham and Alton companies getting together and enjoying country dancing and games as well as a delicious spread.

### 30 YEARS AGO

An EGM was called in March 1985 when the Council raised the rent at the Weaving House where we stored all our costumes. This was a building we shared with the Thespians and we had been paying just £60 a year, which was raised to £600! Members voted to levy a one-off charge of £5 on all members and at every rehearsal the cast were asked to put all their spare change in a giant bottle. At this time too Bill Cooper, our former chairman, died and money collected in his memory went towards new lighting at the Hall.

### 20 YEARS AGO

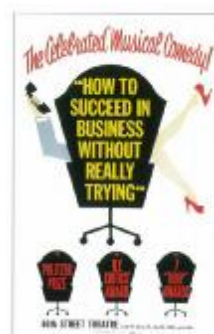
In May 1995 to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the end of World War II, the Players presented their own Music Hall tribute. The Hall bristled with Union Jacks, bunting and memorabilia and there was even a doodlebug wedged on the stage. The demand for tickets was so that once all the tables were filled, the overspill was relegated to the balcony with additional tables in the upstairs foyer. The tickets were in the form of ration books and programmes resembled military CO's orders. The audience joined in the ambience by dressing appropriately. There were plenty of rousing choruses and Hamish produced a puffing steam train for one of the sketches. For the finale everyone was dressed in red, white and blue and songs ranging from "We'll Meet Again" to "Rule Britannia" had the audience cheering and clapping and waving flags. And they were still in the Hall laughing and happy at 11.30 after which the poor waitresses had to clear away all the tables!

### 10 YEARS AGO

In May 2005 Don Stacey was director for the annual music hall. As it was the centenary of the first musical produced by the Players (in fact the company had unofficially started in 1899 doing plays and pantomimes under the same name) it was decided to reprise the most popular acts of the previous fifteen Music Halls. Thus some of the best sketches ever (including the hilarious "Chastity Belt" and "Pantomime Principal Boys") and some particularly spectacular musical numbers were reprised. The result was a real humdinger of a show.

June 25th was a night to remember as, on a balmy summer evening, Players of all ages gathered for a dazzling Centenary Ball at Cowdray Park Golf Club. It was a black tie affair, starting with a champagne reception, and followed by a dinner with tables decorated with individual themes of the many musicals produced by the company. A commemoration mug marked the place setting for each guest and it was a glittering evening enjoyed by everyone

*Fay Foster*



## How to Succeed in Business

Principal auditions were held on Sunday, 21st June. The standard was incredibly high, and after some difficult decisions the Audition Committee finally arrived at the following cast:-

### Male Cast

J. Pierrepont Finch	Tim Spindler
J. B. Biggley	Tony Creasey
Bud Frump	Nick Williams
Bert Bratt	Bill Hudson
Mr Twimble	Adrian Stent
Mr Gatch	Mike Byrne
Mr Jenkins	Peter Coxon
Mr Ovington	Alex Mackintosh
Mr Wally Womper	Andy Boughton

### Female Cast

Rosemary Pilkington	Samantha Ryan
Smitty	Alexandra Boughton
Hedy LaRue	Carolyn Beaumont
Miss Jones	Ruth Edwards

It promises to be a wonderful show with an excellent cast. Tickets will soon be on sale at the Haslemere Hall so do be one of the first to get your seats.



## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



## GRAPEVINE News of Members

Sun 9th Aug	<b>Players Summer BBQ</b> at Woodpeckers, Church Lane
1st - 3rd Oct	<b>'Allo, 'Allo</b> & supper evening by Haslemere Thespians
20th - 24th Oct	<b>How to Succeed in Business</b>
27th October	Read-through <b>Sister Act</b>
8th November	Auditions <b>Sister Act</b>
12th to 14th Nov	<b>Lord Arthur Savile's Crime</b> by Grayshott Stagers
5th December	Players <b>110th Anniversary Ball</b>
26th – 31st Jan	<b>Whistle Down the Wind</b> by Farnham Operatic

In addition, Eric Foster's orchestra will be performing a lunchtime chamber concert at St Mary's Church Guildford on Friday 24th July at 1.15 pm. On Friday 28th August they will be performing 'A Russian Fantasy' in Holy Trinity Church (Guildford High Street) at 7.30 pm. Further details from [eric.foster@sjc.ox.ac.uk](mailto:eric.foster@sjc.ox.ac.uk)

We have just heard that Eileen Dobson, a past president of NODA and our regional rep for many years, has died. She will be cremated at Portchester Crematorium on Wednesday 15th July at 12 noon. Portsmouth Players will be hosting Eileen's wake at their HQ – The Thatched Barn in the centre of Milton Park, following the funeral service.

On a brighter note, we have three lovely congratulations this time:-

Firstly, to Jo Lavis who celebrated her 80th birthday on 20th May surrounded by all her many family and friends. Congratulations Jo!

Congratulations also to Ruth Parr (Yum Yum) and David Wilson (Nanki Poo) who are to be married on 15th July. They met through the Players when both were starring in The Mikado. 'Brightly dawns our wedding day' – at last!

Finally, but not least, congratulations to Gary and Luan Moorshead who were married on 23rd May. Luan's lace wedding dress has to be one of the most beautiful I have ever seen.

