



Players Patter No 173 - May 2016

The Players' Float for the Haslemere Carnival celebrating the Queen's 90th Birthday won a 'runners-up' prize from the Lord Lieutenant.

SHOWSTOPPERS - MEMORIES OF THE MOVIES Part III!

Rehearsals are well underway for Show Stoppers Memories of the Movies Part III. Five choreographers are teaching a spectacular set of routines for the chorus numbers, Musical Director Justin Luke is busy coaching over 30 soloists and Director Jonathan Foster is creating lots of exciting costumes, backcloths and projections.

This is the final part of our movie trilogy and we are pulling out all the stops to create a fabulous show full of memorable masterpieces made famous on the Silver Screen. We will present a tribute to Marilyn Monroe, a salute to the Carry On films, and uplifting numbers from a wide range of films including Singin' in the Rain, Oliver!, Sweet Charity, My Fair Lady, Pinocchio, Chitty Chitty Bang Bang, Les Miserables, West Side Story, Notting Hill, Chicago, The Fabulous Baker Boys, The Blues Brothers and The Rocky Horror Picture Show.

Tickets are now on sale at Haslemere Hall box office www.haslemerehall.co.uk or 01428 642161. Parts I and II were both sold out, so don't delay, call today!



Chairman's message

Well, can you believe it? Here I am writing my last chairman's message for the newsletter. After 16 years on the committee, 9 as treasurer and the last 5 as chairman I've finally decided it's time to let someone else have a go. What am I going to do with all that spare time.....fear not, I have a few ideas!

Well, what a start to the year we've had. Following on from Beating Hearts which I spoke about in the last newsletter, we've now emerged at the other side of the foot tapping, joyous experience of **Sister Act**. Wow! What a show. The audience were on their feet every night and as a cast member one couldn't have hoped for better reactions. An enormous thank you to our fabulous production team, cast and everyone who helped behind the scenes and front of house. I am delighted to report that as a result of the show the super talented Jessi McCluskey has had an audition and is about to attend a callback for a professional production which will be going on a UK tour from October and then, all going according to plan, in to the West End. Break-a-leg Jessi, we know you can do it!

Rehearsals are going brilliantly for **Show Stoppers** and oh boy do we have some treats in store for you this year. Jonathan Foster is completing his Memories of the Movies trilogy and will be bringing you some wonderful numbers including The Rhythm of Life (Sweet Charity), Cell Block Tango (Chicago), a Chitty Chitty Bang Bang medley as well as more traditional numbers such as Ascot Gavotte (My Fair Lady). The show is on Friday 10 and Saturday 11 June and tickets are on sale so get booking. The show includes a light supper and licensed bar so we will need our usual army of helpers. Linda Donaldson is arranging all the waiters/waitresses and bar staff so please do get in touch if you're

Tap Lessons

Time to dust off your tap shoes.....or beg, borrow or steal some! In addition to choreographing Singin' in the Rain, Jessi McCluskey has kindly offered to teach the cast to tap on Tuesday evenings before rehearsals. Her classes will start on Tuesday 21st June at the Studio and will begin promptly at 7pm. All abilities are welcome and don't worry if you've never tapped before - Jessi says she will have everyone tapping by the time she gets her hands on you! We also understand that the Shoe Box in West Street in Haslemere will add taps to any pair of shoes so there is no need to buy a new pair of tap shoes.



Chairman's letter continued

able to help. linda.haslemere@btinternet.com. We're also looking for people to help with preparing the food from about 6pm on the Friday and Saturday evening and help with laying out our delicious homemade cakes for the Saturday matinee so if you're able to join us for that, please get in touch with me.

We've also had our first production meeting for Singin' in the Rain which promises to be bigger, better, brighter and bolder than our 1998 production...with rain a-plenty! The presentation evening for the show is on 24 May at 7.30pm (this is *before* Show Stoppers which is a week later than usual this year to allow us the rehearsal time we need to make the show an absolute smash) The performances are from 25-29 October. More from Hamish and Bob elsewhere in the newsletter....

Unfortunately, we had to delay the Quiz Night which was supposed to be 16 April but we'll let you know when we have a new date.

Lastly, and a lovely way to end my final newsletter....HUGE CONGRATULATIONS to Richard Tytler and Sue Whalley who were married on Thursday 5 May.

Vicki Gavin

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THROUGH THE AGES WITH THE HASLEMERE PLAYERS

40 YEARS AGO 1976 THE KING AND I

For *The King and I* in 1976, around sixty youngsters (and lots of pushy mothers) arrived to audition for the 24 Siamese children. These were to appear at alternate performances as the law then demanded. . To avoid any suggestion of favouritism, the committee were given the children's Christian names only but it was interesting to note that, of the 24 chosen, nineteen were the sons or daughters of acting members. Among these was Jonathan Foster, as Anna's young son Louis, with Don Stacey's son, Ian, playing the young Prince.

The male chorus had little to do but walk on and off in their saffron robes but one of them still came in for criticism. "There is a shameful solecism of a whiskered Buddhist priest," the critic commented. "Someone should tell him that even members of the chorus have sometimes to sacrifice their prized possessions in the interests of their art".

30 YEARS AGO 1986 IOLANTHE

Ten years later Doreen Wylde's production of *Iolanthe* earned for the Players the first of the NODA awards for the Best Presentation in the Southern Area.

It was during the first dress rehearsal (with no musicians) that Anne Manning, playing Iolanthe, came across the stage from the back, skidded and disappeared over the edge into the orchestra pit. Fortunately she suffered no ill-effects, except to her dignity!

As the Lord Chancellor, Tony Douglass followed the male chorus on stage and reported the following: "The noble Lords,

in full wig, sounded magnificent - and certainly looked it... until they came to march in step. Or try to. In spite of most being of National Service vintage, their drill sergeants would have wept. Never have so many odd feet waved in so many different directions. As each Lord processed forward, the stage manager hissed loudly 'Left. Left. Left. No, XXX, it's bl**dy Left' and, if need be, he grabbed any offending right foot and plonked down the left one instead! By the time the last of the nineteen of them had made it on stage, Tony said he was in hysterics each night!

20 YEARS AGO 1996 CHESS

In February 1996, to raise money for the Studio, the Players presented *The Pirates of Penzance from Scratch* attracting a very large choir and audience of all ages. Many dressed for the occasion, some men even swapping their pirates' gear for policeman's helmets in Act II. Hamish as the Police Sergeant was bang up to date by adding a topical verse to his number declaring 'John Major's Lot is Not a Happy One'!

Chess, in March 1996, was a great departure from the norm with its challenging modern melodies and contemporary-style settings. Lyricist Tim Rice even gave director Hamish permission to adapt and alter the show to fit the confines of the Has Hall stage. The score, composed by two members of Abba, included the duet, 'I Know Him so Well' sung beautifully by the two leads, Caroline Foster and Alexandra Legat. Edward Roberts' singing of 'The Anthem' was probably among the best ballads ever heard on the Haslemere stage.

The Herald raved about the "visually arresting production which will live long in the memory". The critic continued: "Not your 'safe' Haslemere show, this one. The Players were living dangerously and the audience waited eagerly to see if they could bring it off. The consensus was that they had".

10 YEARS AGO 2006 OKLAHOMA

Andrew Boughton was the third director to tackle this show for the Players. Alan Drake who has been MD for every Christmas Cracker concert to date, was making his debut with a full-length musical. This was an excellent production with Alan Thornhill, in his first role for Haslemere, playing the handsome hero opposite Racheal Roberts. Susie Dean as Ado Annie created the biggest laughs of the evening as she flirted outrageously with her two beaux, Twain Brighton and Jonathan Foster, the latter repeating the role he had done in 1990. An excellent cast also included Judy Fowler as Aunt Eller.

In July the annual barbecue was held as usual and a limerick competition was added to the fun on the day. Looking ahead to the following year the winner (anonymous) produced the clever entry below:

There once was a Haslemere Player
Whose stage fright was apt to betray her.
There was no need to panic
Her part in 'Titanic'
Made her green hue seem mere *mal de mer*

Fay Foster

SINGIN' IN THE RAIN

The read through for Singin' in the Rain is in the Annexe of Haslemere Hall at 7.30 pm on Tuesday 24th May. Come along and see what is involved in this wonderful show. Here are the main characters:

MEN

Don Lockwood Star of silent films. Needs to sing well and desirably tap well

Cosmo Brown He is the funny man so needs to act well, move well, sing reasonably well and desirably tap well.

RF Simpson Owner of Monumental Pictures. Grand manner, but ineffective under pressure.. Non-singing.

Dexter Film director for Monumental. Needs to be a distinct character from RF, Don & Cosmo. Non-singing.

Tenor Singer Sings 'Beautiful Girl' well. Only number for this character.

Villain Silent film character. Non-singing or speaking(!) but looks sinister.

LADIES



Lina Lamont
Glamorous co-star with Don Lockwood. Suffers from a terrible corn-crake voice. Has one song which she does not need to sing well. Lovely acting part. Must act well

and speak badly.

Kathy Seldon Young(ish) dancer and fan of Don Lockwood. Must sing well, dance well and desirably tap well.

Male Voice Coach Tap dances in 'Moses Supposes' with Don and Cosmo. Needs to look studious (like a voice coach) but emerge as a good sport and an excellent dancer.

Dora Introduces show as gossip columnist. Non-singing

Zelda Friend of Lina and desirably has Lina's silly voice. Non-singing.

Miss Dinsmore Female vocal coach. Takes herself seriously. Non-singing.

Plus a number of minor parts to be cast from the company

See you at the read-through

Hamish



GRAPEVINE

News of Members

Sadly we have the death of several members to report. In no particular order we have Marjorie Sinclair, who used to help with the wardrobe in the 1950's.

Also Valerie Harding who was an active member with us from 1965-1976 has died aged 92 in Ipswich. Her last show with us was My Fair Lady in which she played Miss Hopkins.

Very sadly and by an extraordinary coincidence we had two funerals on the same day, Thursday the 3rd March: Angie Hilder, who had put up such a wonderful fight against cancer and David Wilson who died very suddenly from a heart problem. Although Angie had only been in one show with us (Oklahoma in 1972) she was mostly known to the Players for her wonderful reading-in at auditions. Quite a few members attended her funeral and our thoughts are very much with John at this time.

David Wilson was with us for The Mikado in 1997 where he not only played Nanki Poo but it is where he met his future wife, Ruth Sanders, who played Yum Yum. Ruth went on to join Godalming and David joined Farnham and started his own Harlequin choir. By one of those awful quirks of fate, he and Ruth had only been married for a short while and had just moved to a new house three weeks before he died quite suddenly from a cardiac aneurism. At his funeral the church was full of wonderful singers and I don't think I have ever heard such amazing singing at any funeral. It was a great tribute to him.

On a happier note CONGRATULATIONS to Jessie McClusky who, following her success in Sister Act, has been to the US for an 'open call' audition for Hairspray. This would be a one-off show on Broadway. At the audition 200 people were auditioned in groups – 1,000 in all. Out of the 200 in her group she got down to the last 3, and finally was the winner in her group. She is now waiting to hear about the next stage. She has also auditioned for a national tour of Stepping Out, which could transfer to the West End.

I have kept some lovely news until the end.

CONGRATULATIONS to Richard Tytler and Sue Whalley who were married on Thursday, 5th May.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



Tuesday, 24 May	Read-through of Singin' in the Rain
25 to 28 May	Acorn Antiques by Grayshott staggers
26 to 28 May	Streetcar named Desire by Haslemere Thespians
Fri 10 & Sat 11 June	Show Stoppers III
Sunday, 19 June	Principal auditions for Singin' in the Rain
Tuesday 21 June	Players AGM at the School
25 to 29 Oct	Singin' in the Rain



NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the Haslemere Players will be held at the Haslemere Hall, Annexe on Tuesday 21 June 2016 at 7.30 for 7.45 pm.

A G E N D A

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting
3. Matters Arising and Correspondence
4. Hon. Treasurer's report
5. Chairman's report
6. Subscriptions for 2016/2017. The outgoing Committee's recommendation is that the subscription rates should remain unchanged: Members £25 per annum, Junior/Student members £10, non-acting members £5.00, new Patrons £20.00 per family.
7. Election of Officers and Committee
8. Appointment of Mr Chris Lang as the Independent Examiner
9. Any Other Business

The present officers are as follows:

- | | |
|-----------------|----------------------|
| President: | Mr Hamish Donaldson |
| Chairman: | Miss Victoria Gavin |
| Secretary: | Mrs Pamela Depledge |
| Hon. Treasurer: | Mrs Arabella Burwood |

Miss Victoria Gavin wishes to stand down from the office of Chairman and Mr Christopher Lloyd has been nominated by the Executive Committee in her place.

The present Executive Committee consists of the following members: Debbie Bowyer, Sally Barr, Susanna Lloyd, Adrian Stent, Christopher Lloyd and Bill Hudson (who will be standing down). For any additional nominations to the position of Officers or Committee, please complete the accompanying form.

It would be appreciated if nominations for the election of officers and committee, proposed and seconded, could be sent to the secretary by Saturday 18 June. No nominations will be accepted once the meeting has started. Please note that only paid up members may vote at the AGM. Subscriptions for the coming year become due for payment immediately following the AGM. A copy of the rules of the Society is available from the secretary.

A copy of the Minutes from the 2015 AGM will be displayed on our website, will be available at the meeting and from the secretary.

Mrs P Depledge

Hon Secretary, May 2016

Agenda Item 7: Nomination Form

We, the undersigned, wish to nominate

to the executive committee / to the position of

(delete as required)

Proposed by.....Seconded by.....

I agree to stand for the position above (signed).....

Copies of the latest Players Patter are always available on the web site:
www.HaslemerePlayers.com

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