



Players Patter No 177 - Feb 2017

www.HaslemerePlayers.com

Chairman's Message

A yellow brick road, poppies and trees that sing and dance, an expanse of glittery emerald green and Toto the dog. These are just a few of the fantastic ingredients going into our next production: *The Wizard of Oz* (21-25 March 2017). I have been to some recent rehearsals and, despite absences caused by pantomime and illness, the show is beginning to look absolutely FAB-U-LOUS. Vicki Gavin, my predecessor as chair, is making her directing debut but she looks like someone who has done it many times before. Tickets are now on sale and I would urge to buy early as I believe this is going to be a popular show.

On the subject of tickets, I hope that you have bought yours for the Haslemere Players Quiz Night (Saturday 11 February 2017, 7.30pm, Fernhurst Village Hall).

Whilst there will be friendly competition between the tables it is a good opportunity to get together socially and I hope that many of you will be able to come and join us.

As ever I want to send my thanks to some people who, behind the scenes, make it possible for us to be able to put on shows. This time I want to thank the choreographers who develop the routines and teach these to the cast. Whether they are also in the show or not, they put in a lot of time and effort in helping the director deliver a spectacular show. Debra Allen, assisted by Robyn Davies, who has recently returned to the Haslemere Players, are yet again working their magic.

I am also getting very excited about this year's Show Stoppers. Having directed a sell out pantomime in January, Kim Seymour is directing for the first time for us with a theme of "Around The World". Look out for further details.

Chairman's message continued

Work continues at the Studio in keeping it fit for use. My thanks go to Gary Moorshead for the work he has done in preparing a Fire Plan and implementing all the necessary control measures.

On the subject of the Studio, there have been problems for both us and the school with unauthorised parking. The school is considering taking action against unauthorised parkers. To help them identify those cars which may be there, the committee has decided to issue permits to those who may use our spaces. Whilst this may seem draconian, I know you will understand the spirit behind it and support the move. We also need to be mindful that we have no right to use the school's spaces.

Please do let me know if you would like to help in any way. We especially need help with chaperones for *The Wizard of Oz*.

Best wishes

Chris Lloyd, Chairman, Haslemere Players

SOCIAL REPORT

Inter-Society Quiz

Midhurst Players are hosting the next inter-society quiz. This will be held on Friday, 3rd March at the Midhurst Memorial Hall, Midhurst at 7 pm for a 7.30 pm start. We are looking for a team of six to represent the Players and if you are interested, could you let Susanna Lloyd know on susanna@familylloyd.net Tickets are £8 per head which will include supper.

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

STUDIO NEWS

In addition to having completely reorganised the upstairs area of the Studio, we are well underway with preparations for Wizard of Oz. As rehearsals are no longer being held in the school, there is additional pressure on the wardrobe department and on the cast regarding the trying on of costumes which now invariably has to be done at weekends. Please make an effort to come to the Studio when asked by the show director or by the wardrobe team. Whilst appreciating that people have other commitments, if you are in a show, it is in YOUR interest and is partly YOUR responsibility, to ensure that your outfits are right, well before show week. Day time weekday appointments may be possible if you work on Saturdays and Sundays. Please contact me if this applies to you.

It would also be really helpful if you could let me know in advance if you are coming to the Studio on a Saturday to hire a costume and to give me an idea of what you are looking for. We are often very busy with members of the public and it makes our job more difficult and stressful if our members turn up unannounced. I look forward to seeing all you Munchkins and Citizens of Oz very soon.

Mary-Lou (coopermarylou@aol.com)



The Wizard of Oz is coming along brilliantly and promises to be a great production. We have excellent teams both on stage and behind the scenes, and all are working hard to bring you an absolute spectacle and recreate the magic of the film.

We have Act 1 pretty much under our belts, including some unexpectedly tall munchkins (Oz is land of *equal opportunities*) as well as some extraordinary performances from our principals. Now we head off to *The Merry Old Land of Oz* for some Emerald City style pampering and see Dorothy and her friends Scarecrow, Tinman and Lion begin the next stage of their journey to bring back the broomstick of the Wicked Witch of the West for the Great and Powerful Wizard of Oz.

We have also just recorded our extra footage which will form part of the show.....but let's not spoil the surprise by giving too much away. Scenery is being built, costumes are being prepared, lines learned, songs sung and dances digested.

The show is going to be an absolute must see for adults and children alike so don't miss out. Tickets are on sale at the Haslemere Hall

www.haslemerehall.co.uk

Vicki Gavin, *Director*

Theatre Drawing Classes - Models Required

We've been approached by Jo Shepherd, who used to be part of the Players and is now a local artist based in Godalming. She is starting theatre drawing classes every Monday from 6th February, in Caf Mila in Godalming and is looking for models dressed in costume. She will pay £10-£12 per hour (depending on the level of clothing) - but don't worry she isn't expecting anyone to pose in the nude!

It's all about wacky clothing and makeup and enjoying yourselves. She is looking to do something along the lines of a very successful set up in Brighton - www.thedrawingcircus.co.uk. If anyone is interested please could they contact Jo directly on the details below.

email joshepherd.fineart@gmail.com or phone or text 07969246817

We will provide the costumes from our wardrobe so after speaking to Jo and agreeing the clothing required, then please get in touch with Mary-Lou. Please could you also let me know (on sal_barr@yahoo.co.uk) if you are interested as we would like to take this opportunity to do a press article publicising both the Players and the drawing classes.

WE NEED YOU - JUST FOR ONE HOUR!!!

The Players' eagerly awaited production of The Wizard of Oz is on at Haslemere Hall from Tuesday 21st March - Saturday 25th March with a matinee on the Saturday. We will be conducting our traditional publicity "Walkabout" on Saturday 4th March, where cast - some in full costume! - and other Players Members will hand out flyers to shoppers from around 10.30am-11.30am to encourage ticket sales - this really does seem to work!

Whether you are a member of the cast or not, PLEASE come and help us make this production an absolute sell out by joining the Walkabout - IT'S JUST FOR ONE HOUR. (If it is raining, the Walkabout will be the following Saturday 11th March). Meet at the Studio at around 10.00am ish if you are changing into costume, we will set up circa 10.30am after some publicity photos to send to the local press. Thank you in advance and anticipation! Yellow brick road not supplied!

Debs



Spoof pic; not designed by Carolyn and not 80 songs



GRAPEVINE NEWS OF MEMBERS

Many of you will remember Sam Barrett who played Gaston in our Beauty and the Beast. Sam then went on to the Arts Educational for the last three years and just graduated this last summer. He has now been cast as the male lead opposite Joanne Clifton (one of the professional dancers from Strictly Come Dancing for those not in the know!) in Thoroughly Modern Millie. It is a national professional tour which started in Wimbledon in January and will end up in Bristol in June. It will be on in Woking in May, so hopefully many of us will be able to go and see him.



Dates for Your Diary

11th February	Players Quiz at Fernhurst Village Hall
17th & 18th Feb	Grayshott One-Act Plays
14th – 25th Feb	Iolanthe by Godalming Operatic Society
21st – 25th March	The Wizard of Oz
Tues 28th March	Read-through of Show Stoppers at The Grove
Friday 3rd March	Inter-Society Quiz at Midhurst

SHOW STOPPERS 2017

As I said in my last Players Patter, in June we will be going “around the world” for Showstoppers 2017. Orson Welles famously went round the world in Cole Porter’s 80 days. Well we are all set to go around the world in 80 musicals. Okay, well more like 20 musicals but that doesn’t sound so catchy. The vision is to start the show with ‘Bon Voyage’ (Anything Goes) and use the projector to ‘travel by map’ around the world and sing some great numbers set across the globe. For example we will travel east for Miss Saigon, King and I and Mikado; down to Australia for Priscilla Queen of the Desert; over to Africa for Book of Mormon and Lion King; across the south Atlantic to South America for Evita; up into USA for Oklahoma, Chicago and Bombshell; and back to Europe for Les Mis, Blood Brothers and Made in Dagenham. The exact musicals are not set in stone yet, but you get the idea.

I have had a few queries about casting and auditioning for this and we have decided to go down a slightly different route this year, so here is the lowdown. Firstly, EVERYONE (over 16) is welcome to join us, the more the merrier. We will be having the traditional “presentation” evening on Tuesday, 28th March at 7.30 p.m. at the Grove. Chris Snelling, our talented MD and I will spend the first hour going through our ideas for the show and introducing the songs we have chosen. There is going to be a level of flexibility here; there is no point us choosing a song from a show designed to be sung by a 16 year-old only to find we have twelve 40-50 year-old men turn up (wouldn’t that be nice!).

We will give out a sheet asking each person to rank the numbers they would like to be involved in (including solos) and the rehearsal dates they can make. Each person will then be invited to come over to the piano and sing a few scales so we have an idea of your range, style, etc. (everyone else can have tea and generally chat/catch up). Using this information, we will then decide on the final song list for the show; allocate solos and small group numbers, and build a rehearsal schedule. I am hoping this will be a fair and transparent process for everyone involved. It will be a mix of solos, duets, small group and large chorus numbers

I hope lots of you will be keen to be involved and hope to see you on the 28th March.

Kim Seymour