



Players Patter No 179 - July 2017

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Treasurer's Report

At the AGM I reported that a year ago in June 2016 we saw Part III of Jonathan Foster's Show Stoppers – Memories of the Movies. This was a superb show which sold an impressive 434 tickets and resulted in a tidy profit of £1,204.23. In October 2016 we decided to stage one of our stalwart productions, Singin' in the Rain, most ably directed by Hamish. This is a firm favourite with everyone and was a sell-out on most performances selling 1563 tickets. The show involved real, proper, actual wet rain which was extremely innovative and very effective and although this did make a slightly larger dent in the scenery budget, other costs were relatively low and the show made a very commendable profit of £4,168.77. One of the best results in quite a few years.

In March this year Vicki took on the baton of the Wizard of Oz with aplomb. This was a show that the Players had not put on since 1992. It had a large cast involving children, talking trees, an abundance of Munchkins, tornados, wizards, witches and a real live dog! Not surprisingly production costs were reasonably high but not exceptional. The slightly lower than expected financial result of £211.09 profit was mainly due to the large volume of tickets purchased for children and the fact that children do not tend to buy raffle tickets or programmes. Nevertheless just under 1300 tickets were sold which is a very respectable result.

Overall we have made a profit this year of £3,300.74 which is a healthy result and helped by a number of one-off generous donations which obviously cannot be relied on in future years. Our membership subs are down on last year, as is our scenery and wardrobe hire and our donations.

Also our costs are permanently rising; an increase in the Haslemere Hall fees of 10% will result in an increase of £1000, plus an unexpected change in our rehearsal venue has meant an additional cost per year of around £300. Our studio costs approx. £2,500 to run a year, not counting the running repairs such as £1800 this year for some essential rewiring. Also, new skylights have just been installed at a cost of £791. With this in mind, it is the Committee's intention to propose an increase in membership subs, for the first time in many years, to £30 pa for adult members, £20 for students/junior members and £10 for non-acting members. Along with the subs increase we feel it necessary to raise the show fee to £35 for adult members and £20 for junior/student members. We very much hope members will support this increase and understand the reasons behind it.

Continued overleaf

Chairman's message

My first year as chairman has seen some challenges but these have been overwhelmingly outnumbered by the successes of the society. I am pleased to say that all the effort has been recognised and we have been awarded a NODA regional councillors' Accolade of Excellence for Singin' in the Rain. The statuette and certificate were collected by Hamish Donaldson (director) and Rachel Perkins (Kathy Seldon), accompanied by Linda Donaldson and Pamela Depledge. A huge congratulation to Hamish and everyone else involved in making this show such a success.

Our summer production was 'Around the World in Musicals'.

This was led by Kim Seymour and Chris Snelling, both making their debuts with Haslemere Players as Director and Musical Director re-



spectively. Kim agreed to take on both this production and our next show, My Fair Lady, whilst she was still directing the pantomime for the Haslemere Players. Combined with her family and full time work I am amazed at her energy levels!

This year's AGM saw some changes to the committee: Susanna has decided to stand down. Perhaps she found me too impossible to both live and work with! Thank you for all the work that you have put in as the social representative. I am very pleased that Jane McMichael is re-joining the committee after a break. Jane will be helping Arry with our finances and is taking on raffle prizes and show presents. Graham Ferris, a new member of the society, also joined the committee and is going to help with marketing on social media. Graham is the south-east region fund raising manager for the Royal British Legion and I am very pleased that the Poppy Appeal will be our chosen charity for our October production, My Fair Lady.

On the subject of My Fair Lady, rehearsals are now under way. Kim Seymour is directing, Justin Luke is the musical director and we have a wonderful cast. I am really looking forward to watching rehearsals.

Looking further ahead, our March 2018 production is The Full Monty. I know this is going to cause much excitement in Haslemere and we have had a number of men already throw their hats into the ring to audition (well I actually hope they don't throw their hats anywhere if they get cast!).

I am delighted to confirm that Hamish Donaldson will be directing Chess in October 2018. This was a hugely popular show when he last directed it for us and I predict that it will be again. The committee has already started deliberating shows for 2019 and I hope to be able to give you more information about these in my next letter.

Continued overleaf

Treasurer's Report continued

I would like to thank all those who have been such a support during the year: Hamish, Linda and Sally as well as our wonderful wardrobe, props team and backstage without whom we could not put on our shows.

Arabella Burwood, Treasurer

07811 439694 arabellaburwood@gmail.com

Show and Membership Fees

As mentioned in Arabella's report above, the Membership and Show Fees are now as follows:-

- Full members £30
- Student/Junior members £20
- Non-acting members £10

Show fees

- £35 per show for adult members
- £20 for junior/student members
- Patrons remain at £20 per family

Members can pay by cash, cheque, PayPal or BACS.

After many years as Membership Secretary, Linda is now handing over to Frances Cross. However Linda will still be doing this Newsletter and the Front of House arrangements so there is no getting rid of her yet! All subs should now go to Frances at 3 Daisy Close, Four Marks, Alton, GU34 5GJ frances_bunting@hotmail.com

Three Arctic Monkeys

In February 2018 your ex-treasurer Sally Barr, your current treasurer Arry Burwood and Arry's sister Seraphina will be travelling to the Arctic to attempt a full 26 mile marathon on back country skis. We are doing this in aid of Walk the Walk (www.walkthewalk.org) – a grant giving breast cancer charity based in

Woking that many of you will have heard of



from the MoonWalk in London. Our aim is to raise around £20K between us and to do this we are going to need the generous support of as many people as possible. We will be organising many fundraising events over the coming months which we hope will appeal to a wide range of our friends, family and colleagues. Our first event will be a Ladies Style Event at 8pm on Friday 8th September at Haslewey. More details to follow in due course but reserve the date now! We have a fundraising page ready and waiting to receive your kind donations

<http://wtwalk.org/arcticchallenge2018/theteam>. You can also follow our training and fundraising blog via Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

Chairman's Message continued

Summer is rapidly approaching and I would like to wish you all happy summer holidays wherever you are going or whatever you are doing, unless you are in My Fair Lady in which case I know you will be relentlessly learning lines, songs and numbers! I hope to see many of you at our summer barbecue on Sunday 20 August 2017, which Jane McMichael is kindly hosting again. Details of how to buy tickets are on our website or please speak to one of the committee members.

Christopher Lloyd 07713 251999
christopher@familylloyd.net

Haslemere Players and My Fair Lady

With the Haslemere Players now embarking on *My Fair Lady* for the third time, it might be interesting to look back at the last two productions from 1975 and 2001.

In those days, for a sure-fire hit at the Box Office which *My Fair Lady* certainly was, we did a Monday night performance as well. This means that dress rehearsals were held on both Saturday and Sunday with the poor orchestra doing their first practice on Sunday morning. In the days before the cinema was incorporated into the Haslemere Hall, we also had another few rows at the back of the gallery so that the seating capacity was around 370 rather than the present 340+. For the 1975 show, with seven sold-out performances and a bigger audience, over 2,500 people were present.

'A daringly difficult undertaking' was the Herald's comment on the choice for the spring of 1975. Don Stacey was director and David Gibson, a music master at the Royal School, musical director. Rapturous audiences gave the thumbs up with the critic himself declaring that 'even ten years ago this would have been an impossible dream'. He called Anne Manning's Eliza 'a beautiful performance by any standard', considered Peter Mobsby a 'marvellously intelligent and likeable Higgins' and Brian Cockell a 'splendidly uninhibited Dolittle, rich and fruity'. John Hilder, still going strong in the Stagers' productions, was said to have given 'a charming sketch of the lovelorn Freddy'. Angela Cantan made her debut as choreographer with some lively Cockney knees-up routines, and the talents of the Forde brothers in designing the sets (Hubert was a scenic designer for the BBC), were seen at their very best.

Twenty-six years later in March 2001 the company returned to 'My Fair Lady' and once again all performances were sold out and the show judged a smash hit. MD Edward Roberts made the most of Loewe's wonderful score and Teresa Marsh directed the show with great skill and imagination. The leading players were tremendous with strong performances from the delightful Racheal Rhodes as Eliza, from Tony Ostime as a superb Henry Higgins and Bob Fells as a lovable, earthy Alfred Dolittle, The Herald praised Jonathan Foster as Freddy for 'making *On the Street Where You Live* a real showstopper'. (In view of Jon's later productions of *Showstoppers* an interesting choice of word!)

Fay Foster

Dos and don'ts for the stage

With the approval of the committee, Mary-Lou has prepared these guidelines for us. We are very grateful to Mary-Lou and Sue Farley for all the hard work, thoughtfulness and expertise they put into maintaining our wardrobe and costuming our shows.

Make up

- No glitter on eyes or faces (unless a specific number in a show requires this)
- Lip stick – as per character: bright red; pale; nude
- Heavy day make up is usually sufficient.
- Nail varnish – preferably none but a light French or neutral beige is permissible
- Don't wear perfume but please wear deodorant
- All tattoos must be covered

Jewellery

- No jewellery or watches unless a specific scene requires 'bling'.
- Wedding rings can be covered with tape if you don't wish to remove them
- Absolutely no glasses on stage.

General

- Help one another – check that you have hat, bag, gloves, apron, scarf or whatever has been provided for a particular number
- Do not talk in the wings, or clap – however good your fellow performer has been – it is unprofessional
- Ladies please wear black or tan tights/pop socks as directed.
- Do not add to or remove anything from your costume unless it has been agreed by the Wardrobe Mistress. This includes hair accessories.
- Please direct all costume-related questions to the wardrobe - not the show director. Wardrobe will speak to the director & they will confer.
- If your costume requires a simple repair such as button replacement, hem shortening or new elastic, please do it yourself. Bigger adjustments should be discussed with wardrobe.
- Come equipped with safety pins for emergencies
- You are responsible for looking after your costumes. Hang them up on the hangers provided at the end of the show ready for the next performance.
- Don't borrow accessories from other cast members without checking first that it's ok.



My Fair Lady

The auditions for My Fair Lady were of a very high standard indeed and we could have cast the show several times over! After a long afternoon, the final results were:-

Eliza Doolittle – Alex Boughton
Pickering – Adrian Stent
Mrs. Eynsford-Hill – Angela Cantan
Higgins – David Greenwood
Freddie – Arran Treacher-Evans
Doolittle – Tony Creasey
Mrs. Higgins – Fran Greenwood
Bartender – Debbie Bowyer
Harry and Jamie – Andy Boughton and TBC
Mrs. Pearce – Ruth Edwards
Mrs. Hopkins – Fiona McGregor and Linette Ackroyd
Karpathy – Chris Ackroyd
Higgins' butler – Peter Coxon
Higgins' footman – Graham Ferris
Lady Boxington – Anne Gray
Flower Girl – Lucy Loveland
Embassy Footman – Brian Upstell
Selby Man – David Impiazzi
Hoxton Woman – Robyn Michaelski
Ascot steward – Judith Perrett
Queen of Transylvania – Susanna Lloyd
Charles – David Impiazzi
Mrs. Higgins' maid – Jade Marshall
Sir and Lady Tarrington – Sheila and Alan Knight

Costumes

A great deal of thought goes in to choosing appropriate costumes for the part you are going to play. If you have an issue with your costume please speak to the Wardrobe Mistress so that problems can be resolved well ahead of show week.

Please provide the following items for yourselves – you'll need them on numerous occasions.

Men

- Black trousers
- Long sleeved white shirt
- Long sleeved black shirt
- Black shoes
- White short sleeved T shirt
- Black long sleeved T shirt

Ladies

- Long sleeved black T shirt
- Black trousers
- Long sleeved white blouse
- Short (not mini) black skirt
- Long black skirt
- Black character shoes (or similar)
- Long black dress
- Long and short black gloves & white gloves

If you are not a standard size or height, please be prepared to supply more of your own costumes. We do our best but cannot store things to suit everybody.

Haslemere Players Wardrobe – July 2017

Social Report

This year's annual BBQ Event will be held at the home of Jane, Jim and Issy McMichael on Sunday, 20th August (please note change of date) from 12.30 p.m. Their address is Woodpeckers, Church Lane, Haslemere GU27 2BJ (j.mcmichael2@btinternet.com)

Tickets are available from Jane McMichael or via the Players web site, £7.50 for Adults and £3.50 for under 16's to cover all food costs.

A sumptuous array of food will be provided. All you need to bring along is something to drink, a chair or blanket to sit on and a swimming costume.... Weather guaranteed as usual.



GRAPEVINE News of Members

Very sadly we have to report the death of Mike Lee last week. Mike was one of our longest-serving and loyal Patrons; he was in more than a dozen Players shows (starting with My Fair Lady in 1975) and last appeared with us on stage in Me and My Girl in 1998. Our thoughts are with Judy at this time. His funeral will be held at St. Luke's Church, Grayshott on Thursday, 13th July at 2.30 p.m.

Revised Players Rules

As you will know we have incorporated the Haslemere Players as both a Charity and a Company Limited by Guarantee. This change was made to protect the Trustees in our ever more litigious society.

At the AGM the meeting adopted the new Articles of Association of the Haslemere Players and the new Membership Rules of the Society. The new Rules are attached and they create two classes of Member.

- Ordinary Members of the Society (who are not Members of the charitable company)
- Subscribing Members (who are both Members of the charitable company and Ordinary Members of the Society)

The Subscribing Members will consist of the elected Management Committee and those Life Members of the Society who wish to subscribe. The new Rules are substantially the same as the old for Ordinary Members of the Society with the addition of a sub clause explaining what to do should there not be a quorum at a General Meeting.

Please let me know if you have any queries about this change.

Hamish (donaldson@haslemere.com)

NODA Award

Congratulations to Hamish, the filming team, the rain makers, the principals, the wardrobe, props and scenery teams and all the cast of Singin' in the Rain for this NODA Award. On Sunday, Hamish, Linda, Pamela and Rachel Perkins went down to Bognor to

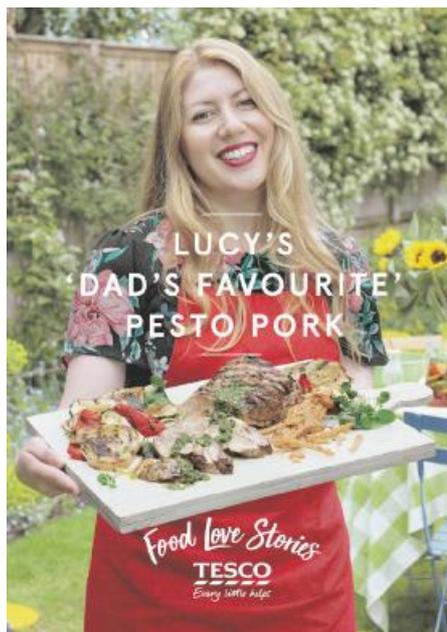
receive the award in a crowded Hall. The pic is of Hamish (holding the statuette and certificate) with Area Councillor John Barnes



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



- 20th Aug Players BBQ at Woodpeckers, Church Lane, Haslemere
- Fri. 8 Sept Ladies Style Event at Haslewey at 8 p.m. in aid of Sally and Arry's 'Walk the Walk'
- 28-30 Sep The Free From Show - Sketches Without Taste by Haslemere Thespians
- 24-28 Oct My Fair Lady
- 16-18 Nov Grayshott Stagers present 'Quartet'



Did you see this card showing Lucy Loveland telling all Tesco customers about her favourite recipe?

Copies of the latest Players Patter are always available on the web site:

www.HaslemerePlayers.com