



Players Patter No 182 - Feb 2018

www.HaslemerePlayers.com

Chairman's Message

I have been reading some past copies of the Players' Patter and see that my predecessors often wrote about items of interest not connected with the Players. Examples include the advent of email, and whether it would take off, and the weather.

On the subject of the weather I am writing this on what is supposedly going to be the coldest night of the winter whilst watching a rehearsal of our March production, The Full Monty. For the benefit of our six leading men, I hope that Haslemere Hall is warm during show week so that their performance may be outstanding.

It has been a privilege to be able to watch some of the rehearsals and, without doubt, there is a wonderful atmosphere and energy from the cast with everyone contributing in one way or another. This is a reflection of Howard's style of direction, his meticulous planning, his passion and his commitment. It really is going to be a wonderful show.

If you haven't already, I suggest that you buy your tickets as early as possible: we are ahead on our normal sales for this time.

Planning for our production to commemorate 100 years of the end of World War I is now well under way. This year our summer production is on the 1st and 2nd June 2018. Judy Fowler, director, is putting together an imaginative but poignant show, supported by Chris Snelling as musical director. The format will be similar to that of Show Stoppers over the past few years with either supper or tea being served at your table.

Please may I draw your attention to the item about the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) in this edition of the Players' Patter. It describes what information we hold about our members and people on our mailing list. We hold information so that we may keep informed about the society, our current and

future shows, and any related items which we believe you will find of interest.

The committee has been discussing the possibility of having a young member on the committee. We are looking for someone in their twenties who has a keen interest in musical shows, is good at organising and has some time to commit. Please let me know if are interested or would like to be involved with the society in any other way.

Best wishes

Chris

GDPR

The new General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) are coming into force next May. The Players Committee have considered the implications and we need to explain to you that we hold your postal address, email and telephone number so that we can send you Players Patter and keep you informed about our shows, auditions, rehearsals, social events and other matters of related interest. Of course, letting you have this information is a necessary part of being a Member, but we will not share your details with anybody else without your permission and we will stop sending you this information if your membership lapses as soon as you ask us to do so.

Please write to Haslemere Players, Edgecombe, Hill Road, Haslemere, GU27 2JN or telephone 01428 644473 if you don't wish to receive Players Patter or any more information.

If you receive this newsletter by post and would be happy to receive it by email, please send an email to linda.haslemere@btinternet.com

BOOK YOUR TICKETS FOR THE FULL MONTY!

The Haslemere Players' ambitious March 2018 production at Haslemere Hall is **The Full Monty**, featuring six brave male principals who are prepared to strip naked over six performances – their modesty hopefully helped by well-positioned hats! The show runs from Tuesday 20th March – Saturday 24th March, with a matinee performance on the Saturday. It is rated PG as the show contains swearing and potential momentary nudity – deep breaths Haslemere!

This is the original American musical production, shown prior to the famous 1998 British blockbuster



film and The Players will be supporting local charity, *The Prostate Project*, with this production.

This adventurous, charismatic and endearingly funny show follows the lives of six unemployed millworkers from Buffalo, New York. Low on cash and prospects, the men see their wives and girlfriends get seriously 'over excited' by an energetic performance from one of the infamous Chippendale strippers and decide to present their own strip show at a local working man's club where their leader, Jerry, declares publicly that their show will be even better as they would be going '**The Full Monty**' and strip naked on stage in front of a live audience!

This show is going to be a blast – are you ready Haslemere?! To book your tickets, contact Haslemere Hall on 01428 642161 or go online at www.haslemerehall.co.uk For more information on this show, please go to www.haslemereplayers.com

Howard writes:

If you think that *The Full Monty* is just about 6 men getting their kit off to make some money, you are so wrong. The relationships, the cracking one liners, the exceptional music which will take you from laughing to crying in less than 60 seconds and the banter is just brilliant. With an exceptionally talented cast having both large roles and small parts, *The Full Monty* is as fresh today as it was 20 years ago when the film was released. The American stage show is often overlooked by amateur societies due to the content, however the Haslemere Players have found some very brave men who are prepared to prove that they will go all the way. With over 600 tickets already sold, why risk not seeing more of your favourite on stage character?

'KEEP THE HOME FIRES BURNING'

A Musical Celebration marking the First World War Centenary

Show Stoppers this year will be marking the 100th Anniversary of the end of World War I. The action takes place in a small town in Belgium, near the front line. Here, two army chaplains, Neville Talbot and Philip 'Tubby' Clayton, opened a club which provided rest and recreation to all soldiers, regardless of their rank. This house became known as 'Toc H' and as it was once a hop factory, the entertainment troupe became known as the Happy Hoppers and our show is a tribute to them.

The set will be a replica of the Toc H with the Belgian flag hanging above the door. A



small group of 'troops' will march on through the audience and sit to watch the show. They will also form part of the show and contribute to the dialogue.

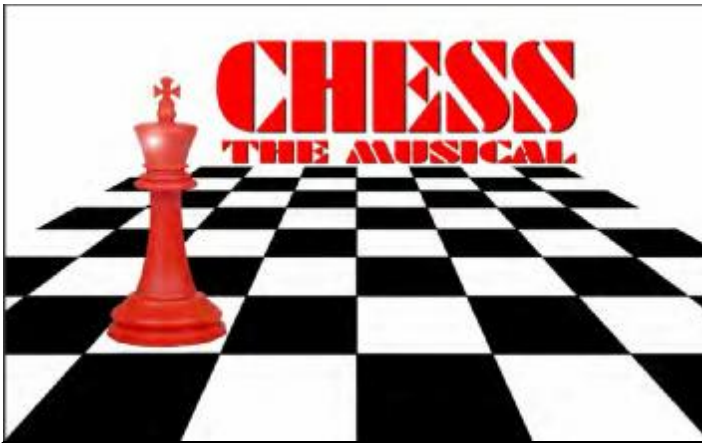
There will be comedy songs, duets, solos, recitations and poems together with chorus numbers - in other words something for every one. There will also be some more serious moments and possibly patriotic songs.

Judy Fowler will be directing this exciting and uplifting production. If you are interested in taking part or hearing more please contact Judy on judy.fowler@btopenworld.com

Marking the Anniversary of World War I in Haslemere



'Keep the Home Fires Burning' is just one of the events planned for Haslemere to mark the end of WWI, 100 years ago. There will be poppies planted on St Christopher's Green; 10,000 poppies on nets, hung from St Christopher's Church Tower; Bell Ringing; Grayshott Pottery will be making ceramic memorial poppies; there will be 'Silent Soldier' cutouts on the Green by the War Memorials; and a Memorial Concert (run by Linda) in St Christopher's Church on Saturday evening 10th November.



CHESS October 23rd to 27th

Chess is a great company musical with 8 principals and plenty for the chorus to do with character parts and a 'pop choir'. We are going to need at least 32 in the chorus - 32 being the number of pieces on the chess board (you knew that). The book is by Tim Rice and the exciting music by the ABBA duo Benny Andersson and Björn Ulvaeus.

The story has three interwoven components – a chess match (between the Russian and American champions); a love match (the Russian champion defects to the West with the American's girl); and this against the height of the power struggle between Russia and the West.

Here are the principal characters:

The Russians:

- Anatoly, the Russian champion, baritone
- Molokov, his manager, bass
- Svetlana, his wife, mezzo-soprano

The American team:

- Frederick, the American champion, tenor
- Florence, his Hungarian born girl-friend and second, soprano
- Young Florence, seen learning chess from her father
- Walter, Frederick's manager (non-singing)

Plus:

- The Arbiter, referee of the chess matches baritone/tenor
- TV Presenter (non-singing)
- Gregor, Florence's father abducted by the KGB, baritone/tenor

The read through will be on Tuesday 5th June up at the Grove; the auditions will be held in the Hall on Sunday 17th June. More about the characters in the next Players Patter.

Director: Hamish Donaldson

Musical Director: Robert Cantan

Choreographer: Mandy Boughton

The Tilbourne Players are staging **The Cemetery Club** in the Tilford Institute from 12 to 14 April at 8pm. A very entertaining play with wry humour and poignant moments. Tickets from 01252 724344

STUDIO NEWS

Thank you to the small but enthusiastic group of volunteers who came along to help with the necessary but rather tedious jobs such as sewing on labels. These jobs become more palatable when shared and we all enjoyed soup and sandwiches at lunch time! We plan to hold another working party after The Full Monty.

Mary-Lou Knox coopermarylou@aol.com



GRAPEVINE NEWS OF MEMBERS

On this rather grey day, it is nice to be able to report some really lovely news. Peter Sillick has just become engaged to Caroline Silvester. Peter proposed on a snow covered mountain in Salzburg (Sound of Music style).

Peter is one of our longest-serving members having been on the Committee for many years (including being vice-chairman) as well as appearing on stage, behind the scenes, doing our sound effects, filming sequences (eg for Mack & Mabel and Singin' in the Rain) taking cast photographs and show videos.

Caroline is Head of Music at St. Swithun's Junior School in Winchester and they met when Peter was filming their productions.

We wish them both every happiness for the future.



Dates for Your Diary

- 16 & 17 Feb **One-Act Plays** by Grayshott Stagers
- 20 - 24 Mar **The Full Monty**
- 27 March Read-through of **Show Stoppers 2018**
- 12-14 April **The Cemetery Club** by Tilbourne Players
- 10 - 12 May **Twelfth Night** by Haslemere Thespians
- 23 - 26 May **Revenge of Sherlock Holmes** by Grayshott Stagers
- 1 & 2 June **Show Stoppers 2018**
- 5 June **Read-through of Chess** at the Grove
- 12 June **Players AGM**, 7.30 pm in the Annexe
- 17 June **Auditions for Chess**, 2 pm in Haslemere Hall
- 23 - 27 Oct **Chess**