



Players Patter No 183 - May 2018

Treasurer's Report

Well we have been very lucky to have had two successful shows in a row now with The Full Monty exceeding ticket sale expectations and selling over 1,400. I think it would be fair to say that, musically, it perhaps is not the most memorable of musicals BUT it will be remembered forever for other reasons! Well done to everyone who dared to bare. I hope to be able to give you a final figure at the AGM but it looks, at this stage, as though we have made a reasonable surplus. As this was not a show for children, the less adventurous or the puritanical this is a very good result!! Well done to everyone involved.

Please can I remind everyone that if you pay your membership sub by PayPal on a recurring basis or by direct debit on a yearly basis to change the amount to £30 for the full membership sub, £20 if you are a student or junior and £10 if you are a non-acting member. We are trying to bring all membership subs into line and more will be announced about this at the AGM. We have agreed to reduce the show fee back to £25 as this is proving to be a more popular amount!

I look forward to giving you a more comprehensive report at the AGM of the Players financial year and ongoing forecast.

Arabella Burwood, Treasurer

Any questions or queries please email me at arabellaburwood@icloud.com

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

www.HaslemerePlayers.com

Chairman's message

When I started planning my letter for this edition of Players Patter, it was not only the warmest day of the year but the warmest April day for nearly seventy years. The following day I went, with a number of other members of the Society to see Titanic the Musical at the Mayflower Theatre in Southampton a show which we put on in 2007. It was a fabulous production, with the characters and their stories being brought to life. When leaving the theatre, we were treated to the storm which hit parts of southern England, complete with thunder, lightning and torrential rain such that I have never seen before in England. A truly memorable evening!

Haslemere Hall has also had some memorable evenings with our recent production of The Full Monty. Everyone involved in the production worked so hard to ensure that the show was a success. I mingled with a few of the audiences who were all full of praise. We have also had a very positive write-up by our NODA representative, Pauline Surrey. Ticket sales may not have been quite as high as had been hoped, but it brought us to the attention of a new audience who will hopefully continue to support us in the future.

The AGM is not long away. Please come along to support your committee, but don't forget to check that your membership is fully paid up by then. My recent pleas for a young committee member have been answered by Verity Foster coming forward. Verity is the third generation of the Foster family to have served on the committee and, having been involved in shows for most of her life, she will bring fresh ideas based on both experience and a young person's perspective. Rehearsals for our summer production, Keep the Home Fires Burning, are going well. It is a blend of Music Hall and a commemoration of World War 1 and it will have you laughing and crying. The dates of the show are Friday 1st & Saturday 2nd June at 7.30 pm with a 2.30 pm matinee on the Saturday. Tickets are on sale at the Haslemere Hall.

Thank you for your continued support of the society. Please do let me know if you think there is anything we could do differently or if there is a show that you would like us to consider.

With all best wishes Chris

SHOW STOPPERS 2018

KEEP THE HOME FIRES BURNING

Hello again. For my sins, I find myself once again donning my directors cap for Showstoppers 2018. Not quite what I had planned for my 'year off' but there we go. Although I am officially steering the ship (which basically means I send emails at very unsociable hours and dream about rehearsals schedules) this is very much a group effort.

It is always a pleasure we work with Chris Snelling (MD) and Lucinda Loveland (Choreographer); and my goodness they are putting the cast through the paces. Mary-Lou (in addition to costuming the whole thing) and Jon Foster have really helped shape the vision of the evening; and Vicki Gavin has been providing the sensible head of reason and promised gin when it all gets too much!

We now have a cast of 34 very talented Players bringing you a varied beautiful, poignant and funny programme from World War I. So 'pack up your troubles' and please join us on the 'long way to Tipperary' at the Hall on Friday 1st and Saturday 2nd June.

Tickets from www.haslemerehall.co.uk. Try to come with friends or we will place you with like minded people.

Kim Seymour

Social Report

This year's annual BBQ Event will be held at the home of Jane, Jim and Issy McMichael on Sunday, 12th August from 12 noon. Their address is Woodpeckers, Church Lane, Haslemere GU27 2BJ (j.mcmichael2@btinternet.com)

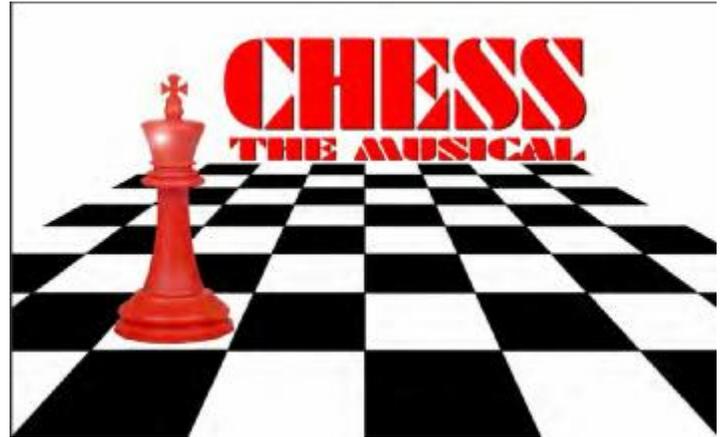
Tickets are available from Jane McMichael or via the Players web site, £7.50 for Adults and £3.50 for under 16's to cover all food costs.

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.



Chess Read-through

7.30 on Tuesday 5th June at the Grove



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 from the KGB, 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**, from the CIA (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

Come to the read-through to learn about it all. It will be on Tuesday 5th June up at the Grove; the auditions will be held in the Hall on Sunday 17th June.

Director: Hamish Donaldson
Musical Director: Robert Cantan
Choreographer: Mandy Boughton

CHESS LAST TIME ROUND - 1996

With the wonderful musical *Chess*, about to make its second appearance on the Haslemere Hall stage, and with Hamish again at the helm, it is interesting to remember the last production in 1996.

This was a departure from the normal shows of the time, with its challenging modern melodies and contemporary settings. But the story of the rivalry and love matches between the US and Russian Grand Masters at the height of the cold war is a powerful one and the cast (and audiences) loved it.

The Herald was full of praise for 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". The five main leads were particularly strong, The two Americans Edward Roberts and Caroline Foster were praised for their superb acting and Edward's rendition of 'The Anthem' is still remembered today.

Newcomer Martyn Hall played the Russian and, aged only sixteen and in her first adult role, Alexandra Legat (now Yates) showed a remarkable maturity. Her duet with Caroline 'I Know Him So Well' was a highlight. Peter Barber, as Molotov of the KGB, was exceptionally good in the sinister, shadowy role.

Further appreciation came for Hamish's production with its 'stunning scenery, imaginative use of television equipment, the Bangkok dragon, and the sinister masked figures playing out a life-sized game'. The slick choreography by Jill Lock and Teresa Marsh was also said to have 'heightened the action'. No doubt Hamish will have some new ideas this time but it is certain that audiences will love the magnificent music and moving story. Indeed, a treat is in store for the end of October.

Fay Foster

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



- 10,11,12 May **Twelfth Night** by the Haslemere Thespians
- 23 - 26 May **Revenge of Sherlock Holmes** by Grayshott Stagers
- 1 and 2 June **Keep the Home Fires Burning**
- Tues 5 June **Read-through of Chess** at The Grove
- 12 - 16 June **Godspell** by FAOS
- Sunday, 17 June **Auditions for Chess** in the Haslemere Hall
- Tues 19 June **Players AGM** at the Haslemere Hall, Annexe
- Sunday 12 Aug **Players BBQ** at Jane McMichael's house at 12 noon



GRAPEVINE News of Members

Those eagle-eyed amongst you may have noticed a recent photo in the Haslemere Herald of Roger and Pamela Sydenham (nee Springate) celebrating their 65th wedding anniversary, for which they received an anniversary message from the Queen.



Roger and Pamela were married in St. Christopher's Church, Haslemere in 1953 having met in the Haslemere Players. Pamela and all her family had been involved with the Players for many years, mostly in G & S productions. They retired to Fernhurst where they have lived for over 20 years.

Their first show with the Players was *Iolanthe* in 1951 and their last one was *Yeoman of the Guard* in 1954 where Pam played Phoebe and Roger was Leonard.

GDPR

You are probably sick of hearing about GDPR. You may remember that we sent you a summary of our policy in the last Players Patter so this is just to tell you that our full Privacy Policies are on the web site. If you don't want to continue to receive Players Patter just let us know.

Players Patter Editor

Linda Donaldson

Linda.haslemere@bt.internet.com



The present officers are as follows:

President:	Mr Hamish Donaldson
Chairman:	Mr Christopher Lloyd
Secretary:	Mrs Pamela Depledge
Hon. Treasurer:	Mrs Arabella Burwood

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the Haslemere Players will be held at the Haslemere Hall, Annexe on Tuesday 19 June 2018 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 (distributed by email and post)
3. Matters Arising and Correspondence
4. Hon. Treasurer's report
5. Chairman's report
6. Subscriptions for 2017/2018. The outgoing Committee's recommendation is that the subscription rates for Members should remain at £30 per annum; for Students and non-acting members £10.00, new Patrons £20.00 per family.
7. Election of Officers and Committee
8. Appointment of Mr Nigel Oldham as the Independent Examiner
9. Any Other Business

The present Executive Committee consists of the following members: Debbie Bowyer, Sally Barr, Frances Cross, Verity Foster, Mary-Lou Knox, Jane McMichael, Adrian Stent. Mrs Debbie Bowyer will be standing down. For any additional nominations to the position of Officers or Committee, please complete the form below.

It would be appreciated if nominations for the election of officers and committee, proposed and seconded, could be sent to the secretary by Saturday 16 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 Minutes from the 2017 AGM will be displayed on our website, they will be available at the meeting and in advance from the secretary.

Mrs P Depledge
Hon Secretary,
Torwoodlee, Mowatt Road
Grayshott GU26 6EY
01428 605237
pameladepledge@talktalk.net

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).....

Please give or send this form to Mrs Pamela Depledge,
Torwoodlee, Mowatt Road, Grayshott, Hindhead GU26 6EY 01428 605237 pameladepledge@talktalk.net