



# Players Patter No 185 - Sep 2018

[www.HaslemerePlayers.com](http://www.HaslemerePlayers.com)

## Treasurer's Report

I hope everyone has had a good summer and feels rested and refreshed!! The heatwave seems a distant memory now although I confess I am writing this short report from sunny Sicily where the temperature is still in the late twenties!

Showstoppers was a great success this year thanks to some very hard work from Kim Seymour and her supporting crew. We made just under £700 which is great. Other than that the summer has been quiet. Our only social occasion has been the BBQ which, given the weather, was surprisingly successful and made just under £100. Special thanks must be given to Mary-Lou huddled under an umbrella doing the cooking and obviously to the McMichaels for hosting the event.

Could I please remind everyone who pays their membership sub by PayPal or BACS that they must increase this to £30 and if you do pay by PayPal it will automatically recur annually unless you specifically opt out. Jane McMichael and I will be sending out GiftAid forms to all of those who do not currently have one filed with us and I hope you will complete these and return them as this does enable us to claim back gift aid which makes a big difference to our funds. I hope everyone has purchased their tickets for CHESS now which promises to be a fabulous production.

Arabella

## Chairman's Message

I hope you have all had a wonderful summer and found time to relax with family and friends. I am writing this on a cloudy morning which makes me think what a shame it was that, amongst those many hot sunny days that we had, the annual barbecue was held on a dreary and wet August Sunday. It just goes to show that it is not possible to plan everything perfectly. However, a big thank you to Jane McMichael for hosting the barbecue again this year and for allowing the very brave (or foolhardy) to use the pool. Thank you to everyone who put so much work into this both beforehand and on the day, it was an enjoyable event at which members could get together and socialise.

Rehearsals for Chess have continued throughout the summer break. They are going well and everyone is enjoying themselves, including the occasional visit to the pub afterwards. The social side of the society is equally important as the theatrical side; so please watch out for details of forthcoming events. It is nice to see new members in the show; welcome to you all.

I want to mention our forthcoming shows. Our March show is The Gondoliers. Andy Boughton is directing as part of a husband and wife team, with Mandy as choreographer. The musical director is Justin Luke. This will be followed by our summer show which will be along the lines of Show Stoppers with Lucy Loveland directing. The theme is love with many popular numbers. Please watch out for further details on both of these shows.

In the last newsletter I told you that we had applied for the licence to put on Chitty Chitty Bang Bang as our October 2019 production. Unfortunately we were not successful. Hopefully you will have seen my email in which I told you that we had been granted a licence to put on Evita! instead. This is really exciting news. Adrian Stent will be making his directorial debut assisted by Lizzie Hales as musical director.

Before closing, I want to welcome Fiona McGregor who joined the committee in August. I am very pleased that she agreed to join us. Although she is a relatively new member

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(Please note my new email address)

### Chairman's Message continued

of the society, she has been involved in amateur theatre for a while and she will bring to the committee experience and a new perspective.

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.

Best wishes, Chris

**Chris Lloyd**

**Chairman, Haslemere Players**

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### Spring Show - The Gondoliers

For me the wheels of time and my involvement with amateur musicals have rolled on over forty years. Just how many productions I have been involved with I don't know; I've never counted. However, I do remember my very first production very well; 'The Gondoliers'. I knew more about Gilbert O'Sullivan at that time, but I thought this acting and singing lark would be fun and I wasn't disappointed. So here I am umpty-nine years on, too old to play my original part as a Gondolier, directing this production for the Players – and delighted I am too.

G&S. Gilbert & Sullivan. Frequently when a society announces its next production is a G&S, society members fall into two camps: group 1 G&S – groan and sulk, and group 2 G&S – great and splendid! I've been involved in about ten G&S shows and I've enjoyed them all. For a start I enjoyed the four part chorus singing and gained a great feeling of satisfaction and secondly the witty, satirical libretto of Gilbert appeals to my taste.

From 1905, when the Players formed, until 1951 the society staged only G&S productions with casts of thousands (well, dozens!). Ennui comes to mind! Over-crowded stages and overly static performances, but these aspects are things of the past. I wish to build on the inherent quality of the show and energise and visually humourise the production. No more statics and much more dynamism and essentially enjoyment for those involved.

Well what is the show story? It is the usual daft and silly implausible tale of love and romance and social inequality and everybody living happy ever after. It is set in Venice (well there's a surprise) and no doubt about

Gondoliers; well not really. It is more about an impoverished Spanish aristocratic old codger and his wife and a chap with a drum, plus also the usual bevy of beautiful maidens spending most of their time sitting on the Rialto Bridge flower arranging, whilst young gondoliers punt up and down the Grand Canal drinking chianti.

'The Gondoliers' has maintained its popularity and appeal with casts and audiences for 120 years since it was first performed. It is one of the best G&S productions and offers opportunities for principal roles across a wide range of ages and voices. Plus good chorus involvement, full-on rehearsals and cast satisfaction assured. If you are interested and feel you can put up with my sense of humour, then come along to the show presentation on Tuesday 30th October.

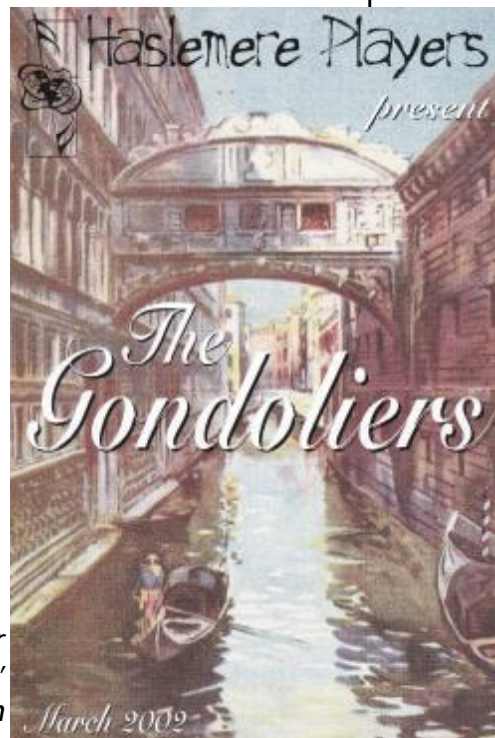
Andy Boughton.

P.S. This production will in no way be affected by the outcome of Brexit negotiations!!

### Calling all Scores

I am trying to track down scores for our forthcoming production of The Gondoliers. I am exploring a few avenues, but if you plan to be in the show, or know of anyone willing to lend/sell a copy, please could you bring it with you.

Pamela (01428 605237)



Cover design for the Players' 2002 production

### Report from the Studio

The Studio will no longer be open on Saturday mornings as a matter of course. If you wish to hire an outfit, please email me ([coopermarylou@aol.com](mailto:coopermarylou@aol.com)) or send me a text message if you already know my mobile number, and I will arrange a mutually agreeable time to meet you there. This may well be a Saturday if this suits us, but please don't just turn up on the off-chance as you may be disappointed!

### Social Report

A big thank you to Jane and Jim McMichael who were the hosts for this year's BBQ in August. In spite of the poor weather there were many swimmers and a wonderful time was had by all.



# CHESS

## THE MUSICAL



### CHESS

Rehearsals are going really well and this promises to be a wonderful and very fast moving show. So now is the time to book your tickets.

#### How to Book

- Telephone the Haslemere Hall on 01428 642161; Payment by credit/debit card.
- By post to Haslemere Hall Box Office, Bridge Road, Haslemere GU27 2AS. Payment by cheque made payable to Haslemere Hall.
- Online at [www.haslemerehall.co.uk](http://www.haslemerehall.co.uk).
- In person at the Haslemere Hall Box Office, Bridge Road, Haslemere GU27 2AS, Mon – Fri 9 am to 1 pm; Saturday 10 am to 12 noon.

Note that the Hall makes an admin charge of 50p per ticket - not charged to Members of the Hall (so why not become a Member?)

### Help with Ushers for CHESS

We are in great need of help Front of House for ushers and raffle (as there are so many in the finale chess match). Please, please can you spare one or two evenings during the week of the show (the last week in October) to help. Don't forget you get to see the show FREE!

Please could you contact Linda on 01428-644473 or [linda@haslemere.com](mailto:linda@haslemere.com) with your availability. Many thanks.



### GRAPEVINE

#### News of Members

It is with great sadness that I report the death of Jo Lavis a couple of weeks ago. Jo suffered a severe stroke and was suffering from liver cancer. Her funeral was on the 14th September at St. Mary's church, Chiddingfold and several members of the Players were there.

Jo had been an incredibly loyal member for many years. Originally she did the make-up for the cast (and even came when her husband died during the week of the show). She then became our most stalwart Front of House raffle person and if I had not rung her up to ask her to attend, she would ring me and ask why not! She loved to attend the Matinee performance and then stay on to have fish and chips between shows.

Not many people realised that Jo was an artist in her own right. She designed covers for our programmes, and we are including one of her designs here. She was also a wonderful flower arranger, and was in great demand to do the flowers for weddings. She will be greatly missed by everyone.

We also send our thoughts to Barbara Thomas who also suffered a bad stroke a few weeks ago, and is still in the Royal Surrey in Wisley Ward. It looks as if she will be in hospital for a while yet and I know she would love to hear from members.

## THE MUSIC MAN



*Jo's cover design for The Music Man in 1980*

### Dates for Your Diary

- |             |   |
|-------------|---|
| 4 - 6 Oct   | Ladies Day by The Haslemere Thespians                     |
| 23-27th Oct | CHESS   |
| 30th Oct    | Read-through of The Gondoliers up at the Grove            |
| 1st Nov     | Rehearsal for Principals                                  |
| 11th Nov    | Auditions for The Gondoliers 2 p.m. in the Haslemere Hall |
| 15-17 Nov   | Grayshott Stagers present Oh What a Lovely War            |