



Players Patter No 188 - May 2019

Treasurers Report May 2019

As I write my final Treasurers report I am pleased that our Spring production – The Gondoliers - has made a small profit. Exact figures will be available at the AGM – I am still waiting for some advertising income to come in and a few tardy receipts! Although ticket sales were not great, we do not pay a licence fee for G&S productions saving us a significant amount of money. Also costume and scenery costs were particularly low resulting in a profit of about £500 – an early guesstimate!

I am hanging up my Treasurers hat at the AGM due to other work commitments. I will also be resigning from the committee but hope to still be involved with the Players behind the scenes in different capacities as and where I am needed! I must thank Linda Donaldson and Jane McMichael for managing the membership so successfully during my time as Treasurer, Pamela Depledge for helping with the Show Fee collection, Hamish for helping me with the End of Year Accounts and Sally Barr for being my co-signatory and advisor when the Excel spreadsheet got the better of me!

Arabella Burwood

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

www.HaslemerePlayers.com

Chairman's message

May Day Bank Holiday weekend, and the sun is having a break! However, for many involved in the Players, this weekend is providing anything but a break.

First, Linda Donaldson is pulling together this copy of the Players' Patter that you are now reading. Secondly, Graham Ferris has recently volunteered to take on the organisation and rostering of front of house helpers for our shows, and he is actively seeking volunteers for Show Stoppers. I have let him know my availability; please may I ask that, if you are available to help, you contact him as soon as possible.

Rehearsals for Show Stoppers are well under way with Lucy Loveland putting together a lovely show for you. It is her first go at directing and Show Stoppers is more difficult than a traditional show as there is no script or guidance on how to stage it. It is very brave of Lucy to do this and I know that she will do her very best. She has my full support and thanks.

Rehearsals for some of the principals are now under way for Evita, our October 2019 show, which Adrian Stent is directing. Please watch out for the main auditions and for the call for chorus. Please do consider being in the show even if you didn't get one of the main parts.

Looking back to March, Andy Boughton's The Gondoliers received good reviews from all who saw it, even from those for whom Gilbert and Sullivan is not their cup of tea. It was lovely to see some new members take to the stage with us and I hope that they enjoyed being a part of it as much as I did and will come and do further shows with us. We recently held the DVD evening and Justin Luke's hard work as musical director was apparent. I would also like to thank Jennie Budden for doing the costumes again and giving Mary-Lou a rest.

Looking forward, I am very happy to confirm that Fiona McGregor will be making her directorial debut with Legally Blonde in March 2020. This is a wonderful musical which gives an exciting opportunity to attract younger members. That said, there are also some older parts!

The past few weeks have been very sad with the loss of some longstanding members: Sue Farley, Barbara Thomas and Lisa Roberts. Please join me in remembering them with thanks for all that they did for the society and in sending our love and support to their families.

Yours ever, Chris

SHOW STOPPERS 2019

Join us for **Show Stoppers – An Evening of Love!** - a bouquet of modern and nostalgic musical songs with a touch of **romance, comedy and exquisite performers.**

Enjoy the journey of an intimate relationship with **popular masterpieces loved by all ages!**

Begin in the honeymoon stage with **Holding Out For A Hero (Footloose)** and **People Will Say We're In Love (Oklahoma!)**. Go through the disillusionment stage with shared lessons of love with **Don't Rain On My Parade (Funny Girl)** and **Burn (Hamilton)**. Arrive at the phase of mature love, reaching true intimacy with **Getting To Know You (The King and I)** and **All I Ask of You (Phantom of the Opera)**. Among other musicals throughout this journey



include **Into The Woods, Hairspray, Les Miserables, Rent ...** and much, much more!

The audience can relax in a **"Talk of the Town" cabaret setting** and delight in either tea with scrumptious scones at the matinée performance or a delicious two-course

evening supper. There's a fully licensed bar during the evening performances.

Being just over 3 weeks away, it's a good time book your tickets now! We'll see you there!

Lucy

CALLING ALL WAITRESSES AND BARMEN

Waitresses and Barmen are urgently needed for Show Stoppers on Friday, 31st May and Saturday, 1st June.

Please contact Graham Ferris on graham.ferris@aol.com or his mobile 07468 578924 if you can help in any way.

WARDROBE NEWS

With the sad and sudden death of Sue Farley, I have lost my 'right-hand-man' who worked alongside me and became an invaluable member of the team.

Steph Ridler has stepped in to help in the short term but I am looking for a volunteer who is prepared to work with me in the Studio to help maintain our extensive wardrobe, to be on hand to help deal with hiring costumes out to other societies and to assist in the costuming of our own shows. Times can be arranged to suit the individual but some Saturday morning duties will be required and of course, nearer show-times, there is more to do. Ideally, I don't want to go down the road of having a different helper for each show (although additional pairs of hands are always welcome) as we really need the consistency of someone who knows our stock. If you have never been to the Wardrobe, do come and look round. We are the envy of other societies because we have so much well maintained and well organised resources. This has only happened because Sue and I, often assisted by Steph Ridler and Sarah Burch, have put in so many hours to keep it like this. Here we must also add a huge thank you to Jennie Buden who took over costuming The Gondoliers so that were able to concentrate on other things.

To help in the Wardrobe you do not need to be able to sew but you need to be prepared to learn and to work as a part of a team. We work hard but we have a lot of fun.

So... please have a think. This request is not confined to the ladies – I am quite happy to have a male assistant!

If you, or someone you know who is not necessarily a member, would like to know more about this 'vacancy', please email me and I'll be happy to meet up for a chat.

Quite simply, I cannot do this by myself so I need your help.

Rest in peace my dear friend, Sue. I promise that I will get your successor to empty the bins, clear up the mess that I leave, Hoover the carpets and wash up the cups properly!!

Mary-Lou (coopermarylou@aol.com)

Haslemere Festival

As you probably know, Hamish is masterminding Haslemere Festival again this year. There are a huge number of events over the 18 days of the Festival. Either Google 'Haslemere Festival' or click this link to see the programme.

<https://www.paperturn-view.com/hasfest/haslemere-festival-brochure?pid=NDY46654>

Social Report (BBQ)

This year's annual BBQ Event will be held at the home of Chris and Susanna Lloyd on Saturday 6th July which will also be combined with the AGM.

The Lloyd's address is 21 Midhurst Road, Fernhurst, GU27 3EJ (and the entrance to their drive is opposite The Cylinders). Please bring your own chair and drink

Chris is looking into getting a band for the occasion... so we will let you know ticket prices and how to book shortly.

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



Evita Auditions Round 2

Sunday 9th June 10:30am at The Grove

NOTE TIME AND LOCATION!!!

Congratulations to our first three Evita principals: Alex Boughton – Eva; Alan Thornhill – Peron; Arran Treacher-Evans - Che



In this second round we invite you to audition for the following:

- 10:30 Magaldi and Mistress
- 11:00 Small solo and ensemble roles - please come along for a short audition if you are interested in playing a small solo or small ensemble role.
- 11:30 Children - we are looking for three girls aged 9-11 approx to sing in Santa Evita (Act 2), including solo/trio. The children will also appear in one or two earlier scenes.

Audition material is available on the Players website haslemereplayers.com (password for audition material is Peron). There will be an audition rehearsal on Tuesday 4th June 7:30pm-9:30 at The Grove.

Please don't hesitate to contact us if any questions!

adrian.stent@woodlawns.com; haleslizzie@gmail.com
pameladepledge@talktalk.net; sal_barr@yahoo.co.uk

Social Report for the recent Spring Ceilidh



A really fabulous and enjoyable evening was had by all last Saturday evening at Grayshott Village Hall.

It was wonderful to see some seventy Players and friends of all ages enthusiastically throwing themselves into the Gay Gordons, the Dashing White Sergeant and the Eightsome Reel to name a few of the dances. Reel after reel was supplied, the Ceilidh Music was perfect and the caller Peter Donaldson ensured everyone could master the moves effortlessly in no time at all.

Everyone looked the part, huge efforts had gone into lovely Tartan attire not to mention Hamish's wonderful kilt and Linda's tartan sash.

All the committee worked really hard to make the Ceilidh happen but special thanks must go to Peter Donaldson for his expert calling, Mary Lou for engaging him and to Arabella who did a brilliant job of organising the delicious supper. *Jane McMichael*



1967 White Horse Inn
Fay Foster as Ottoline & James
Fulleylove as Valentine

A REMARKABLE DRESS FROM THE PLAYERS' WARDROBE

Director Andy Boughton received an email from Fay Foster after she had seen *The Gondoliers*, part of which read:

I was amused to see the first blue dress worn by Alex which was actually made for me for 'White Horse Inn' in 1967! We then had our BBC producer John Hobbs and he brought his costume designer with him and I believe that, in the archives somewhere, you will see the design for that dress which I subsequently wore.

All of the dresses for *White Horse Inn* were made by wardrobe mistress Jo Fatcher to the designs of BBC costume designer Valerie Spooner, (whose later credits included *EastEnders*, *Fawlty Towers*, *Last of the Summer Wine* and *Grange Hill*) using 350 yards of material and 6,600 yards of cotton thread. The Herald review stated: "The vivid colours and neat lines of the dresses contribute enormously to the pleasures of the show".

Fay ended her email with: *It is amazing that, thanks to our Studio, we can keep all these treasured*

costumes and that they can come out and look fresh again after fifty years!

Indeed, it is. The Players are extremely fortunate to possess such an extensive collection of costumes and to have had a succession of dedicated wardrobe mistresses who, over the years, have looked after them with such care.



2019 The Gondoliers
Alex Boughton as Tessa & Alan
Thornhill as Giuseppe



GRAPEVINE News of Members

Firstly, I had hoped to report good progress for Rachel Perkins who had managed to have a weekend at home since the last Newsletter, but sadly just last week, she had a very serious arterial bleed and is now back in Intensive Care. Lots of prayers are needed for both Rachel and her family.

This is an extraordinarily sad Newsletter in that I have to report the deaths of no less than three of our very talented and stalwart members, all of whose funerals are taking place in the next week or two. Hence my urgency to get the Newsletter out quickly this time. Sue Farley whose funeral was last week; Barbara Thomas whose funeral is on Tuesday 7th and Lisa Roberts whose funeral is on Friday 10th.

BARBARA THOMAS

Barbara Thomas was an extraordinarily gifted all-rounder with a glorious voice and a brilliant comic touch. She was a skilled artist, and had a determination to get 'stuck in' and help in every way possible.

She arrived in Haslemere when her husband, Dr Alfred, joined the medical practice in Haslemere in 1960. Having been a member of an operatic company in North London, she joined the Haslemere Players in 1962. Her major debut role was as one of the Three Little Maids from School in 'The Mikado'. In all she appeared in 34 productions, the last one being the Jubilee Showstoppers in 2012.

Blessed with a superb contralto voice, she took many leading roles during the first thirty years, none more memorable than that of Queen Guinevere in 'Camelot' in 1968. That year the Players were directed by John Hobbs, a BBC producer who managed to get all the costumes from the original Drury Lane production for Haslemere. The studio portrait of Barbara in her magnificent embroidered robe held pride of place in her home for the rest of her life.

She played such a variety of roles – the black mama Queenie in 'Showboat', the yodelling postwoman in 'White Horse Inn', a majestic Juno in 'Orpheus in the Underworld', the village gossip Yentl in 'Fiddler on the Roof', the piano-playing Mrs Paroo in 'The Music Man', and, in the part of Vera, her singing of the beautiful Ivor Novello ballad 'Fly Home Little Heart' in 'King's Rhapsody was unforgettable'.

Her comic talents were to the forefront in the many Music Halls and Revues she appeared in for the Players. With such songs as 'Nobody Loves a Fairy When she's Forty' she brought the house down and her appearance in so many sketches and comic songs, mostly as a dotty old lady, were legendary,

Her three children, Llewellyn (Timothy), Nicola and Bridget also appeared on stage with their mother in several productions and she was very proud when Bridget played the leading role so charmingly in 'The Boy Friend' in 1980.

As a professional horological artist who restored antique clock faces, her artistic talents were exceptional and she shared her gifts by creating and painting many a backcloth or large prop for the company. She was business manager for many years and, as well as designing the programme, undertook to persuade businesses to advertise in it. In fact Barbara was someone who would lend her hand to anything that needed doing.

For thirty years from 1975 onwards she was a member of the four-strong concert party group from the Players who gave over 400 entertainments to local nursing homes, old people's clubs, WIs, and other groups. In these Barbara will always be remembered for her Gracie Fields' numbers with impeccable Lancashire accent and high coloratura trills. To this day there are people in the town who mention these performances with affection.



Barbara as Guinevere in Camelot

Later Barbara also joined the Thespians where she enjoyed directing plays and appearing in cameo roles in some of their productions. As with the Players, she got involved with everything front and backstage and served was on the committee with a stint as Chairman.

A one-off, slightly eccentric lady, Barbara was a larger-than-life character, renowned for wearing a number of colourful felt hats. She will be missed by a great number of people in and around Haslemere who valued her friendship and her willingness to do whatever she could to make sure anything she was connected with would be as professional as it could possibly be. *Contributed by Fay Foster*

Linda adds:

Barbara suffered a severe stroke a few months ago and was in the Royal Surrey for some time. She managed to get home even though she was still paralysed down one side. Alfred looked after her until she died peacefully a couple of weeks ago. Her funeral is this Tuesday, 7th May at Guildford Crematorium at 12 noon.

Lisa Roberts (née Bailey)

Lisa's joined the Players in 2010 when she appeared as Grace Farrell in *Annie*. She followed this with roles in *Guys and Dolls* (as Sarah Brown opposite future husband Edward Roberts' Sky Masterson), *Beauty and the Beast* and *The Sound of Music* (as Sister Sophia). A talented choreographer, she worked on three other shows between 2010 and 2012, and served on the Players' committee. She was also a member of the Thespians and played Beauty in their 2011 pantomime *Sleeping Beauty*.

In 2012 she was among the thousands of extras who appeared in the Opening Ceremony of the London Olympics, unexpectedly finding her picture on the front cover of national newspapers the next day!

Lisa was a sports and drama teacher at Woolmer Hill School, where she inspired boys as well as girls to dance, to the extent that Woolmer Hill became known as "the school where boys dance". She then moved onto Alton Convent School where she directed a school production of *Annie* in 2013.

A gifted actress, singer and dancer, Lisa's life was tragically cut short after a long battle with cancer. She will be greatly missed and we send our heartfelt condolences to Edward, little Ella and their families.

Lisa's funeral will be on this coming Friday, 10th May at 12 noon at Thorpe Church. TW20 8TQ

Contributed by Jonathan Foster

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

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|----------------|---|
| 9 - 11 May | 84 Charing Cross Road
by the Haslemere Thespians |
| 9 - 27 May | Haslemere Festival |
| 22 - 25 May | Made in Dagenham
by the Grayshott Stagers |
| 31 May & 1 Jun | Show Stoppers in Haslemere Hall |
| 4 June | First Rehearsal for Evita |
| 9 June | Remaining auditions for Evita
2.30 p.m. at The Grove |
| 11 -15 June | Titanic by FAOS |
| Sat 6 July | Players BBQ & AGM at Susanna & Chris
Lloyd's house at 12 noon |
| 22- 26 Oct | Evita in Haslemere Hall |



Lisa as an Olympic volunteer in 2012 on the front page of *The Times*



Sue Farley

Sue first joined the Players in 1972, appearing as a dancer in *King's Rhapsody*, alongside her then husband Peter Mobsby who played the leading role of Nikki. The following year their daughter Julia played Gretl in *The Sound of Music*. After another dancing role in *La Belle Helene* (1974) Sue retired from acting in order to concentrate on family life and running a nursery school on College Hill, which she did from 1970 until 1994. She also ran dancing and keep fit classes from the school premises. Sue was a long-term volunteer at Haslemere Museum and a stalwart of the Haslemere Musical Society and St Bartholomew's church choir. A talented needlewoman, a beautiful quilt made by

Sue was the principal raffle prize at last year's Bliss Charities Fair.

Voluntary work at Haslemere Hospital introduced Sue to a patient left a quadriplegic as a result of a brain injury after a car accident. Keen to do more, she contacted the Brain and Spine Foundation after reading their appeal for runners to take part in the 2002 London Marathon. At 60, Sue was the oldest runner in a team of 49 and meeting the team at a reception in London, legendary broadcaster Des Lynam picked out Sue as someone who might inspire him to have a go at running a marathon himself!

Sue re-joined the Players in 2013, appearing in 12 more shows as a dancer or member of the chorus, most recently in *Chess*. She also became an indefatigable member of the society's wardrobe team, working alongside Mary-Lou Knox. She was a friend to so many and will be greatly missed.

Contributed by Jonathan Foster.

Linda adds:

Sue died comparatively suddenly from cancer of the spine and lungs. As an ex-nurse she was very aware of her prognosis which she faced very bravely and practically. She died very peacefully with her ex-husband, Peter Mobsby, and her children by her side.

Her funeral was last week at St. Christopher's Church which was packed with people standing at the back and even in the kitchen! It was a wonderful service containing the music and prayers she had asked for herself. There were three choirs (St. Bart's, St. Christopher's and members of HMS) and if I say so myself, the singing was wonderful. I hope you were listening Sue and felt we did you proud!

Players Patter Editor

Linda Donaldson

Linda.haslemere@bt.internet.com