



Players Patter No 193 - June 2020

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Treasurers Report

When I first started working from home on 18 March, I commented to Chris Lloyd that I thought it could be for as much as 4 weeks. At the time he said he thought it would be closer to 3 months and here we are, 11 weeks later, with my company talking about returning to the office no earlier than September! This is the sort of thing that happens in other countries....we see it on the news.....think "oh dear, how awful" and get on with our lives. This has certainly been a wake-up call!

Well, on to Players! I'm busy working on the 2019/20 accounts and am asking Linda to attach a gift aid form to the newsletter. Even if you think you've already completed one, if you're a UK tax payer, please fill it in and scan and email it back to me. If you can't do that, drop me an email and I'll send you my address.

In terms of our shows, we have had the go ahead from the rights holders to move Legally Blonde to October and are still waiting to hear back on whether we're able to move Chicago to March. Please keep everything crossed that we're able to go ahead with both of these absolutely brilliant shows.

Now, some rather exciting news. The intrepid Sally Barr spotted that, due to the COVID 19 pandemic, we were able to claim a grant from Waverley Borough Council. As I was snowed under with work she kindly filled in the paperwork and within a shake of a lambs tail we found ourselves in receipt of a very welcome £10,000. No, that's not a typo....£10,000!!! Well done Sally for spotting it. This will make a huge difference for Players and will contribute massively to us being able to complete the essential work at the studio to separate the studio and the nursery (a requirement of our lease) which was going to be a huge strain on finances.

As before, stay safe and stay well.

Vicki Gavin

treasurer@haslemereplayers.com

Chairman's Message

It is two months since I last wrote to you and the country is gingerly sticking its head up to see if it safe to emerge from lockdown. With care, it is another step in the recovery stage. It is too early to say what the new normal will look like. It will be different, at least for a while. But it is another step towards us being able to get back on stage again.

At our last committee meeting we agreed to continue with our aim to stage Legally Blonde from 20 to 24 October 2020. Advice about safe social distancing will be the final arbiter, not just for us on stage but also for our audiences. We will also need enough time to bring the company back together for rehearsals.

We are still looking at our options for our March 2021 show. It is not easy as the rights holders are working remotely and everything is taking a little bit longer than usual. We were fortunate in being able to move Legally Blonde by six months to October.

I can, however, confirm that our October 2021 show is going to be "Kipps, The New Half a Sixpence", which Kim Seymour is going to direct for us. It is fabulous show full of old favourites and we are lucky to have two great shows to look forward to. We will let you know the plan for March 2021 as soon as we can.

It always gives me pleasure in being able to thank everyone who works so hard behind the scenes. This time I want to thank Val Bishop for all that she has done to help with producing wigs and hairstyles for many shows. Val has decided to hand on the baton (or brush and curlers). Val has is a long term active member of the society who has also appeared in many shows. Thank you from us all.

We have also decided that last year's combined summer BBQ and AGM was a successful event and that we should repeat it again this year. Lockdown permitting, we are going to hold this on Saturday 22 August 2020. Jane McMichael has volunteered to host it. Please watch out for further details.

Chairman's message continued

So whilst we continue trying to predict what will happen over the next few months, we look forward to seeing you all again very soon and to putting on shows. Until then, stay safe, keep well and, above all, let the world know:

WE WILL BE BACK.

With all best wishes, Chris

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Social Report

This year's annual BBQ Event will be held at the home of Jane, Jim and Issy McMichael on Sunday, 22nd August from 12 noon which will also be combined with the AGM.. 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 picnic rug to sit on and a swimming costume; and this year please bring your own cutlery and glass/drinking utensil.

Weather guaranteed as usual.



Sadly this time I have to report the deaths of two of our older members.

Firstly Fred Shepherd. Fred died one day short of his 62nd wedding anniversary to Maureen who had been his great supporter throughout his life and particularly in his latter years. After a short spell in hospital, Fred died on 28th March from natural causes aged 88. He was a remarkable man, a colourful character, a very skilful craftsman and a fiercely competitive sportsman. In 1969 he designed and built a very lightweight model sailing boat. This design held the record for the lightest winning champion model sailing boat for over a decade. He restarted competitive cycle racing in 1986 but in 2004 he had a bad crash which left him unable to do intricate work.

I am sorry to also report the death of Iain White. Many of our older members may remember Iain for his contributions both backstage and onstage particularly as one of the Barbershop quartets in several Music Halls. Elaine, his wife, was also a great help making costumes and was greatly in demand. He was a wonderfully enthusiastic person who would go out of his way to help and support others in need and will be greatly missed.



Ian and Elaine

Desert Island Discs

In our last Players Patter I asked Andy Boughton to be our very first victim and this time I am delighted to say that Doreen Wylde has offered to be our second! With her vast knowledge of musicals, I was looking forward to seeing her choices and here they are. I should just mention that on 4th July Doreen will be 94 – what a wonderful life to look back on.

The Merry Widow (performed by the Players in 1977 and 2000)

You Are My Hearts Delight. This brings back happy memories of when my husband, Bill, sang this song.

Show Boat (1975 and 1996)

Old Man River and **Fish Gotta Swim** which Doreen herself sang as Julie in the Players production in 1975

The King and I (1976 and 2006)

Whistle a Happy Tune and **Getting to Know You Fiddler on the Roof** (1976, 1999 and 2015)

If I were a Rich Man and **Sunrise Sunset**

Gigi (1979)

Thank Heaven for Little Girls and **The night they invented champagne**

I chose this show in memory of Teresa Marsh who played the lead

42nd Street (2005)

Shuffle off to Buffalo

Me and My Girl (1998)

Me and My Girl

Sound of Music (1973, 1993 and 2012)

Climb Every Mountain (In this show I played the Mother Superior and sang this song) and **Edelweiss**

South Pacific (1982, 1997 and 2014)

This nearly was mine and **Some enchanted evening**

Dates for Your Diary



Tricky one, this. Hopefully we have:

The Players AGM and BBQ on Saturday 22nd August

Legally Blonde on 20th to 24th October (note it is not the last week in October this year)



Join the cast for the **Haslemere Players Lockdown Song!**

We might not be able to all get on stage together at the moment, but we can still **SING TOGETHER!** Join us for our **YouTube charity performance!**

We have some ideas for songs, but we are **very interested to receive your song suggestions – the more the merrier!** We are looking for something that is positive, uplifting, with a familiar, catchy melody, and ideally but not necessarily from a musical...or just any song that you think would work well!

Once we have chosen the song, Chris our lovely MD will produce and send out a backing track to all participants. We will then ask you to learn the song, practice singing along to the backing track, and then record yourself singing on your phone or tablet. Send the result to us and we will stitch it all together to make the final performance video. We will send you instructions on how to do all this, and will be on hand to provide any help.

We would also be delighted if you would like to **play along on a musical instrument** (we can include you twice if you want to sing and play an instrument!).

The charity has yet to be selected, but we are aiming for a local health/care sector charity. We plan to raise money for our chosen charity by including a link to a charity giving page, and asking people audience to make a donation if they enjoyed our performance. So we are hoping your performance will be circulated far and wide!

This is what we ask you to do now...

- **Let us know if you want to join the cast!** The more we are, the better it will be, and the more we will raise! No deadline for this, but it would be good to hear **in the next couple of weeks** so we have an idea of numbers.
- **Send us any song suggestions by Sunday 14th June!**

Please email us on players.sing@gmail.com

If you have any questions in the meantime don't hesitate to ask. And by the way we have no idea who those people in the picture are!

Let's sing!

Your production team,
Chris, Verity & Adrian

