



Players Patter No 201 - Aug 2022

www.HaslemerePlayers.com

Treasurer's Report

It is so good to have a full year of shows lined up again after the troubled period that we have all suffered over the last two years. Having just finished Kipps (The new half a sixpence) which received some wonderful reviews, the buzz continues with Anything Goes and people are already excitedly talking about the upcoming production of Kinky Boots!

With this line up, the excellent work that Mary Lou has already done with hiring and raising money from the sale of some costumes, and some exciting social events, the 2022-23 financial year looks much more promising than the last one.

The full financial reports for 2021-22 will be announced at the AGM, but suffice to say that with low income due to show cancellations and reduced audience capacities due to Covid, and with a high cost impact of the grounds maintenance at the Studio the figures were not where we wanted them to be. In spite of these numbers, the society remains financially buoyant and the Committee and show teams are as committed, excited and full of ideas as ever.

It is fair to say that, judging by the huge smiles on the faces of the people leaving the auditorium after KIPPS, the show deserved a much bigger audience than it received. The quality of our shows is always high and the pleasure they bring to all concerned is immeasurable, So I urge you all to spend even more of your hard earned money on tickets for this year's show line ups and the planned social events. You won't regret it!

Mike

Mike Byrne Treasurer
mb.hp.treasurer@gmail.com

Chairman's Letter

Does anyone else feel like things are busier than they ever were pre-COVID? We just don't seem to stop!

Our Float in the Jubilee Procession was an absolute triumph. Thanks to Gary and Adrian for construction who were joined by Luan and Steph on the day who helped decorate it and Carolyn for designing the banners and flyers we gave out as we walked around the town. The crowds loved it, especially our very own Queen, who some of the children thought was the real thing! We were advertising our wonderful wardrobe and Mary-Lou is getting more individual costume hire enquiries as a result.

KIPPS – THE NEW HALF A SIXPENCE MUSICAL came and went in the blink of an eye. Managing to fit the get-in, band call, tech, two dress rehearsals and 5 performances in to just 7 days was something of a challenge but one that everyone rose to. Thank you again to every single person who was involved. We took the opportunity to ask for feedback from cast and crew and have received some really useful insights and are looking for ways we can put some of the suggested improvements in place.

With auditions already done we were straight on to our October production **ANYTHING GOES** and as I write the crew and passengers of the SS American are already almost a month in to rehearsals, scenery building has started and our costume team of Mary-Lou and Steph, who've been joined by new recruits Phoebe and Sara-Jane, are coming up with some fabulous ideas.

Lots has been going on in the wardrobe which I know Mary-Lou will report on in more detail elsewhere in the newsletter; we had our costume sale up at the studio on 28 May, the “fur man” and a contact of Tony Creasey’s have taken some of our vintage costumes of our hands, generating a very welcome £2,285 and we’ll be taking costumes to the Country Market car boot sale on the August bank holiday Monday. Please do get in touch with Mary-Lou if you’re able to help.

The AGM will be on Sunday 28 August at 12.30 at Conford Village Hall. We thought it would be a good venue as we can do the speeches inside so everyone can hear but then move outside on to the green for a picnic and games. Please bring along an outside chair if you can. All are welcome but if you’d like to stay for the picnic there’s a £5 charge.

We’ll then be performing a the Last Night of the Proms event at St Luke’s in Grayshott on Saturday 10 September. The format of the evening is a first half (roughly an hour) of entertainment from Players followed by an interval and then a live stream of the Last Night of the Proms from The Royal Albert Hall. Plans are underway to perform a number of songs from Kipps and Anything Goes, as well as other popular shows so do get in touch if you’d like to be involved chairman@haslemereplayers.com.

We've also managed to make a firm plan for a Winter Ceilidh (I'd like it noted that I spelt that correctly without looking it up....obviously it was a fluke but worth a mention!) on Saturday 8 October at Grayshott Village Hall. We'll have the fabulous caller we had last time who was so great at getting everyone up and dancing and will be providing filled chilli jacket potatoes with cheese and sour cream followed by sweet treats, all for just £15.

Lastly, but rather excitingly, we have our full 2023 season planned. We've asked each of our directors to write a bit about their show elsewhere in the newsletter but we're delighted to bring you two British musicals, both based on true stories. In March we'll be doing **KINKY BOOTS** directed by Howard Bicknell and in October, **CALENDAR GIRLS**, directed by Alex Boughton. The year wouldn't be complete without **SHOW STOPPERS** which will be directed by Kim Seymour. I think it's going to be a really exciting year and I could go on and on extolling the virtues of each of the shows but I'll let you read what each of our directors has to say about what makes their show so special.

Vicki Gavin chairman@haslemereplayers.com

News from the Studio

Alongside packing away after Kipps (27 wash loads) which took weeks of hard work from the team, we have continued to hire costumes out to members of the public and to add to our culling rails.

More vintage things have been sold which all helps the Players bank balance.

On this note, we decided to try to sell surplus stock at the car boot sale on Lion Green on Sunday 23rd July so with the Volvo stuffed to the gunnels, a small but very enthusiastic team of volunteers gathered at 8am to set out our wares.

It was great fun and we managed to sell about a rail load of things which was a good start. My thanks to Steph, Vicki, Alex and Andy for their support.

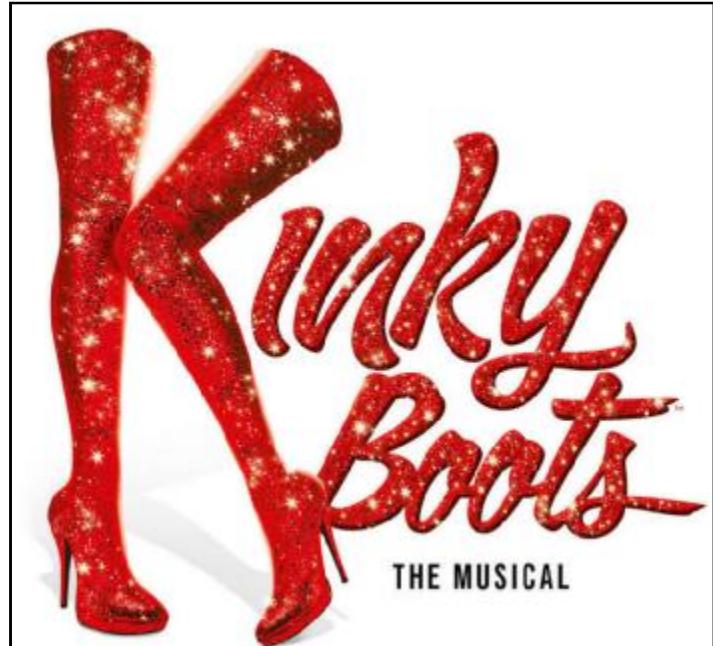
Flushed with success, we have decided to try another car boot sale – this one at Country Market, Bordon on bank holiday Monday 29th August. It's a 6.00 am meet this time which will be a bit of a shock to the system!!

Of course we would really like your support for this so if you feel you'd like to be part of the selling team, please let me know. However, you could just come along to the sale and see if there's anything you fancy either for use in a show or for your own wardrobe. On bank holidays, buyer entry is free and is available from 7 am until 11.45.

I realise that this is the day after the AGM but as the AGM is an afternoon event, an early night can still be had.

Please support your society by attending the car boot sale. We've had a lean couple of years and the Wardrobe Team has been beavering away trying to bring in much needed funds.

So see you all there! Mary-Lou



KINKY BOOTS written by Harvey Fierstein with music and lyrics by Cyndi Lauper ("Girls just want to have fun") is to be performed by Haslemere Players - Tuesday 21st to Saturday 25th March 2023. It celebrates the true meaning of 'Just be who you want to be.' and 'You can change the world when you change your mind,'

This musical has 12 roles of which 8 are male, 4 are female plus 4 x Angels (drag queens) who could be either male or female and 2 x boys (aged 10ish) and no less than 216 pairs of shoes and boots per performance. We will also require an ensemble of about 12 adults who will have a lot to do in the Price and Son factory as well as plenty of smaller cameo roles and help with moving 2 x tall sets of steps on wheels which link to different doorways and a floating office.

Based on an unlikely but true story, with its origins in a 1999 BBC2 documentary, "Kinky Boots" the musical became a Tony and Olivier award winning sensation! Price and Son is a struggling Northampton shoe factory, where the 'son', Charlie Price is about to abandon the family firm to its fate until the arrival of Lola, a fabulous drag queen in need of some sturdy stilettos. As they work to turn the factory (and some attitudes) around, this mismatched pair find that they have more in common than they ever dreamed possible. A show full of heart, hope, 16 original songs and huge celebration of performance, togetherness, high-heels and LOTS of glitter!

Howard Bicknell, Director

Contributions to the Newsletter to

Linda Donaldson

ANYTHING GOES

Music & Lyrics by
Cole Porter

Book by
PG Wodehouse & Guy Bolton

Haslemere Hall
25 - 29
October

DIRECTOR: Adrian Steni
MUSICAL DIRECTOR: Lizzie Hales
CHOREOPHERS: Georgie daSilva



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IT'S ALL GO AT ANYTHING GOES!

Since the last newsletter we have had the auditions for our October show, *Anything Goes*, and we are in the thick of rehearsals. Congratulations to our fabulous Principal cast (...and our Ensemble is equally fabulous!)

Reno Sweeney – Alex Boughton

Billy Crocker – Zac Rasulian

Hope Harcourt – Verity Foster

Lord Evelyn Oakleigh – Alan Thornhill

Erma Latour – Jo Weller

Moonface Martin – Mike Byrne

Evangeline Harcourt – Kim Seymour

Elisha Whitney – Ellis Nicholls

Captain – David Greenwood

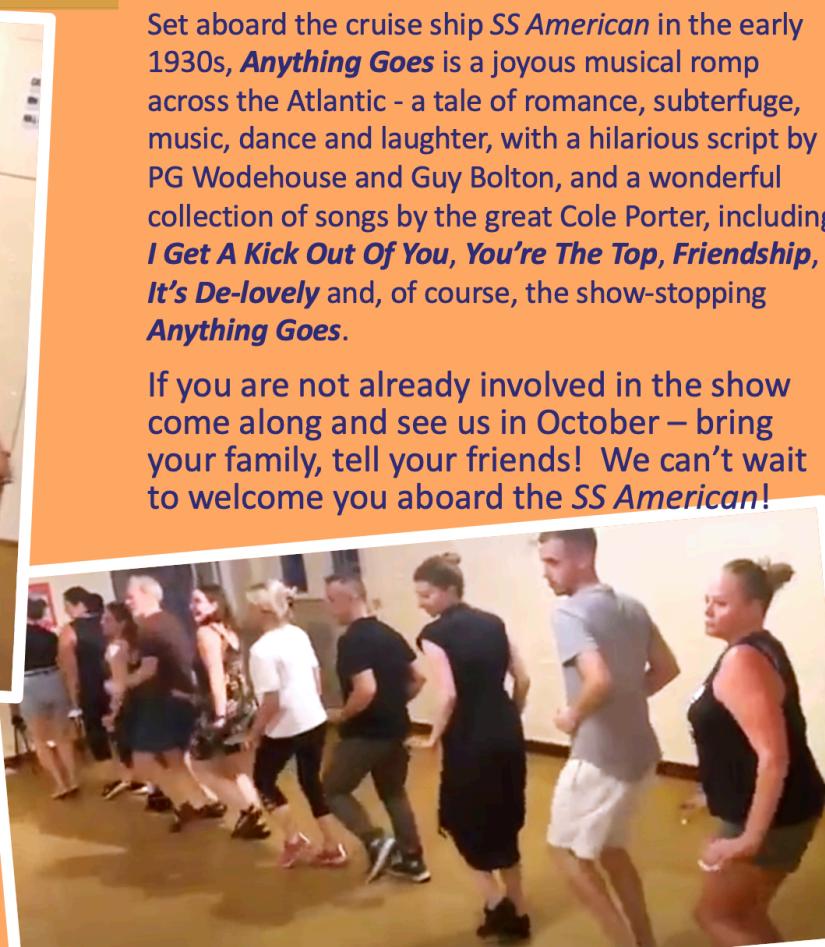
Purser – Eric Collins

Reno's Angels – Robyn Davies, Rebecca Lucas,
Emma Lumb, Claire Nisbet

JOIN US FOR A JOYOUS MUSICAL ROMP!

Set aboard the cruise ship *SS American* in the early 1930s, *Anything Goes* is a joyous musical romp across the Atlantic – a tale of romance, subterfuge, music, dance and laughter, with a hilarious script by PG Wodehouse and Guy Bolton, and a wonderful collection of songs by the great Cole Porter, including *I Get A Kick Out Of You*, *You're The Top*, *Friendship*, *It's De-lovely* and, of course, the show-stopping *Anything Goes*.

If you are not already involved in the show come along and see us in October – bring your family, tell your friends! We can't wait to welcome you aboard the *SS American*!



SHOWSTOPPERS 2023.

The dynamic duo of Kim Seymour and Justin Luke are very excited to be returning to direct **SHOWSTOPPERS 2023**.

The theme is along the lines of "Girl meets boy" (or boy



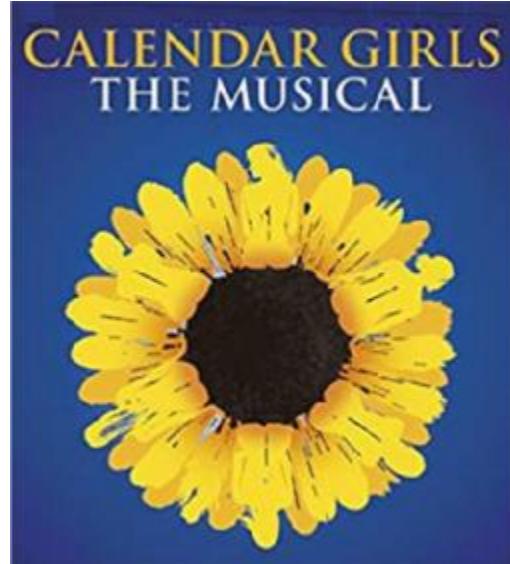
meets girl, girl meets girl, boy meets boy - we are very inclusive that way and probably need to think of a better title!). The idea is that we will follow a couple through meeting (Going Courtin' - Seven brides for seven brothers); dating (Mix Tape - Avenue Q and Been a long day - How to succeed); falling in love (All I ask of you - Phantom and People will say we're in love - Oklahoma); a proposal (An old fashioned wedding - Annie get your gun); their wedding (Get me to the church - My Fair Lady

and Flash Bang Wallop - Kipps); starting a family (Negative - The Waitress and Theodora - Hamilton); overcoming tragedy (Take off your mink - Guys and Dolls and The Letter - Made in Dagenham); and into older age (Timeless to me - Hairspray and Still - Titanic). With some lovely other songs to help us tell their story along the way.

Our leads will change through each song but always dressed in the same colours to help the audience follow along. The great thing about this is that it will give everyone, of every age, a chance to shine; from our whippersnappers though to our more mature members ("recycled teenagers" as my grandma used to say). There will be the usual mix of big chorus numbers, small groups, solos and duets.

Rehearsals will begin after Kinky Boots (End of March). We look forward to seeing you there!

Kim Seymour, Director



Calendar Girls 24-28 October 2023

While we have several exciting shows coming up before we get to this one, I'm here to tell you a little more about our October 2023 show: *Calendar Girls the Musical*. This very funny, heart-warming musical is written by Tim Firth with music and lyrics by Gary Barlow.

Calendar Girls the Musical, which like the 2003 film was based on a true story, follows the story of best friends Annie and Chris, and a group of members from the Knapely Women's Institute. Following the death of Annie's husband John, Chris wants to purchase a comfortable sofa for the visitors' lounge in the hospital where he was treated, and in order to raise funds hits upon the idea of printing a WI calendar featuring their members discreetly posing nude! Her proposal is initially met with great scepticism and horror, not only by the WI members themselves but by the wider village including their husbands and mortified teenage children. Eventually Chris convinces ten women to participate in the project with her, and wins over the wider community. They enlist one of the hospital workers, an amateur photographer named Lawrence, to help them with the calendar.

The show has 18 named parts (of various sizes, requiring different ages and genders). It's a story about love, loss, friendship and community, and quintessentially British in its humour and feel. Think rolling hills, bunting, Victoria Sponge, wheelbarrows, jam, village halls, prize vegetables, and of course Sunflowers!

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



GRAPEVINE NEWS OF MEMBERS

News has been received from Doreen Wylde's son, David, telling us that Doreen had been hospitalised in the New Year following an injury to her head following a fall. During this time in hospital, she had a CT of her head which showed that she has late-stage Alzheimer's dementia.

It was obvious that she required discharge into a Home which had nursing care and she now has a place in Jubilee House in Godalming. Interestingly they have withdrawn all her medication except for her insulin and she feels a lot better for it.

Nowadays she sleeps for much of the day and conversation is difficult. However she still enjoys a fish and chip lunch washed down with a G & T!

It was lovely of the Players to think of her on her birthday. David says on behalf of his mum, please give her regards to all the Players who knew her.

SOCIAL REPORT

PLAYERS WINTER CEILIDH

will take place on Saturday, 8th October at the Grayshott Village Hall. It will be a really fun evening and will include a delicious supper of Chilli Jacket Potatoes (vegetarian/vegan option available).

Live music and Scottish reel dancing provided by a professional caller.

BYO Wine/Refreshments; Dress – optional Tartan theme

Tickets £15 per person with limited availability which can be purchased in advance via PayPal at www.haslemereplayers.com



Dates for Your Diary

Sun 28th Aug	Players AGM at 12 noon at Conford Village Hall, with picnic and games
Mon 29 Aug	Players Car Boot Sale at Country Market, Bordon. Free entry, open from 7 am – 11.45
Sat 10th Sept	Last night of the Proms at St. Luke's church, Grayshott
6 – 8 October	The Game's Afoot by Haslemere Thespians
Sat 8th Oct	Players Ceilidh at Grayshott Village Hall 7.15 pm
25 – 29 Oct	Anything Goes in Haslemere Hall



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NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the Haslemere Players will be held on Sunday 28 August 2022 at 12 noon at Conford Village Hall, Conford (near Liphook), GU30 7QJ

A G E N D A

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting (on the website)
3. Matters Arising and Correspondence
4. Hon. Treasurer's report
5. Chairman's report
6. Subscriptions for 2022. The outgoing Committee's recommendation is that the subscription for members should remain at £30 per annum; the subscription for students and non-acting members is £10.00. New Patrons £20.00 per family.
7. Election of Officers and Committee
8. Nigel Oldham has agreed to remain as the Independent Examiner.
9. Any Other Business

The present officers are as follows:

President: Mr Hamish Donaldson	Chairman: Miss Victoria Gavin
Hon. Secretary: Mrs Pamela Depledge	Hon. Treasurer: Mr Michael Byrne

The present Executive Committee consists of the following members: Alexandra Boughton, Verity Foster, Mary-Lou Knox, Hannah Lucas, Fiona McGregor, Jane McMichael, Arran Treacher-Evans, . The officers and committee are standing for re-election except for Miss Hannah Lucas and Mrs Fiona McGregor who wish to stand down.

It would be appreciated if nominations for the election of officers and committee, proposed and seconded using the form below, could be sent to the secretary by Saturday 16 August. 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 2020 AGM will be displayed on our website and will be available at the meeting.

Mrs Pamela Depledge

Hon Secretary. July 2022

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).....