



Players Patter No 203 - Dec 2020

www.HaslemerePlayers.com

Chairman's Message

And suddenly, in the blink of an eye, here we are in December with Christmas fast approaching. So much has happened since the last newsletter, despite it being less than three months ago.

ANYTHING GOES sailed in to port, a true maritime success. I know I wasn't alone in approaching the technical rehearsal with a degree of trepidation having witnessed the months of set building but we needn't have worried. The clever set design made for slick scene changes and the ship, commented on by NODA as looking as if it might actually make it across the Atlantic, was a fabulous backdrop to the action of the show. It's almost impossible to know where to start with the thank yous but director Adrian Stent, MD Lizzie Hales and choreographer Georgie da Silva delivered an absolute spectacle that wowed audiences performance after performance. We are so lucky to have the teams we have working on scenery, props and wardrobe so thank you to every one of you. We've always commented on there being at least one person off stage for every person on it so for Anything Goes I tested the theory. A massive 80+ people contributed to bringing the show to the stage, some doing more than one job, and that's before you add the cast!!

We were so sad to hear of the death of Doreen Wylde, a member of the society for many years with numerous directing and MD credits under her belt. Her funeral was attended by many members of Players, along with members of other local societies, with the wake held afterwards at the Haslemere Hall all, rather fittingly, on the opening night of Anything Goes. We think she'd have

admired more than just the costumes!



KINKY BOOTS is now well underway with a fantastic cast. There will always be disappointed people following auditions but everyone who auditioned should be so proud. It's never easy and I know the committee could have cast the show several times

over. A very warm welcome to new-comers Emily Butcher, Kyrie Carpenter, Jonny Chen, Lewis Hoskins and Emma Woodley and also to Naomi Robertson and Sally Waghorn who are performing in their first Players musical. We'll be having mince pies at the break in our rehearsal on Tuesday

TREASURER'S REPORT

Bums on seats. At the AGM I had projected a better year financially for us in 2022/3 given that we had a full line up of fantastic shows. So far, I have been half right!

Anything Goes was a fantastic production which I am very proud to have been a part of. The direction, cast, set, and backstage work were exceptional and I truly believe that our productions are getting better and better each year.

We have now embarked on the next exciting installment, **Kinky Boots**, which promises to be quite spectacular. There is a massive buzz about this show at rehearsals and from personal experience there is a lot of interest from friends and family to come and see it.

Anything Goes saw a significant increase in ticket sales compared to Kipps (which was again a fantastic show that deserved more audience), but sales still fell short of our expectations and budgets. Kinky Boots is spectacular, but glamour and glitz costs money so we need excellent patronage to cover the expenses.

So I was right about the fantastic shows, but we need to make them work financially too. Everything is getting more expensive at the moment as we all know, but in spite of the quality of our shows there is a limit to how much we can charge for a ticket.

As a society we want to put on fabulous shows and we want to do them well! The committee will do all we can to raise funds, budget wisely and spend thoughtfully but our lifeblood is in the sales.

So, dear readership, can we ALL make an extra effort this year to drive awareness of just how fantastic our shows are and encourage our friends, families and each other to come and see them and get those 'Bums on Seats'!

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

Chairman's Report (continued)

20 December at the Haslemere Hall. The cast will be doing a run of act 1 on stage so do come along and see how we're getting on and join us for a mince pie! Tickets are selling like hot cakes.... who knew Haslemere had such a thing for men in stiletto boots!.... so get your tickets booked early!

<https://www.haslemerehall.co.uk/theatre/kinky-boots/>

Don't forget our joint Christmas party with our friend the Haslemere Thespians at Grayshott Village Hall on Saturday 17 December. Tickets are just £10 with everyone bringing their own drinks and a plate of food to share. The lovely Lizzie will be providing entertainment with festive songs and open mic. Come on, we know you can't resist! Book your tickets here:

<https://www.haslemereplayers.com/christmas-party-2022/>

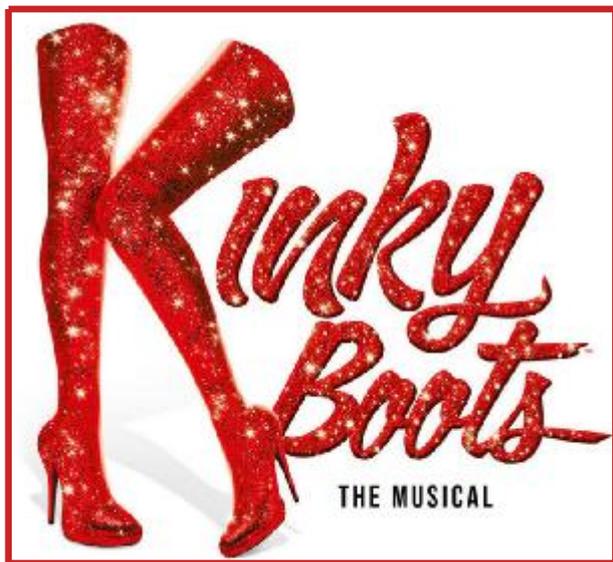
. You can even book for the Winter Ceilidh on Saturday 4 February at the same time!

<https://www.haslemereplayers.com/winter-ceilidh-2022/>

Best wishes from the whole committee for the festive season.

Vicki Gavin

chairman@haslemereplayers.com



Kinky Boots is the winner of every major best musical award, including the Tony, the Grammy and London's Olivier Award. Based on true events, this huge-hearted hit tells the story of two people with nothing in common — or so they think. Charlie is a factory owner struggling to save his family business. Lola is a fabulous entertainer with a wildly exciting idea. With a little compassion and a lot of understanding, this unexpected pair learns to embrace their differences and creates a line of sturdy stilettos unlike any the world has ever seen! But in the end, their most sensational achievement is their friendship.

The talent that was brought to the auditions earlier this month was incredible. The standard was amazing and over 30 auditions were presented. Justin and I are delighted with the cast.

Charlie: Tim Spindler

Lola: Jonny Chen

The Angels: M Byrne, K Carpenter, T Edser, C Lane, Z Rasulian, D Stephen

Nicola: Naomi Robertson

Lauren: Verity Foster

Don: Lewis Hoskins

George: Tony Creasey

Trish: Sally Waghorn

Pat: Robyn Davies

Harry: Alan Thornhill

Mr. Price: Andrew Boughton

We have had had our first two weeks of rehearsals and during this time Chloe has been putting the Angels through their paces so they strut, bend, pout, prance and perform safely, all whilst wearing heels the size of scaffolding towers.

We are still looking for 3 or 4 more men to join the cast as factory workers, hooligans, pub and club patrons so please do let us know if you are interested. We also need two boys aged 8 - 10 who will appear in the first scene and the finale (a long wait in between).

The chorus have delightfully mastered a couple of the numbers and the sound is nothing short of incredible and we all believe that a shoe is the most beautiful thing in the world.

Debs and Robyn will be choreographing many of the bigger numbers. The whole production is very much about being a team and we are so lucky at the Players to have such wonderful people who are not in the cast that are sourcing costumes, thigh length boots, swish curtains, shoe boxes, rolls of leather spandex to name but a few.

We welcome a number of brand-new members into Kinky Boots: Emily, Emma, Jonny, Kyrie, Lewis and Sally and it's lovely to have Ruth on stage rather than behind scenes.

I can't express my thanks and gratitude to everyone involved and for working so hard, so early, to bring this incredibly challenging musical to life. The sound is divine, the quality sublime and the dedication of everyone to make this a huge team effort is wonderful. I am thoroughly enjoying the experience and loving seeing the characters start leaping from the book to the stage to animate this feel good, fabulous, must be seen musical. Thank you everyone.

It's a great way to shake off the winter blues so book your ticket now to give everyone something fabulous to look forward to in the Spring.

Thank you. .Howard



GRAPEVINE NEWS OF MEMBERS

Two of our longest serving members died recently - **Doreen Wylde** and **Ben Dare**. Obituaries have been circulated already to our membership but let me know if you would like a copy. Doreen's funeral was well attended with many more of us at the Haslemere Hall afterwards for the celebration of her life. She would be pleased to see so many representatives of all the Societies with which she had been involved and also for us to meet so many old friends and have a good catch-up with them all.

Quite a few of us oldie Players were at the Crematorium for a very poignant service for Ben Dare followed by a wake at the nearby Premier Inn. Our pic shows Ben (retrained as a Masseur) on a cruise line.



I know you will wish to send good wishes to **Stephanie Ridler** who is in the Royal Surrey following a stroke.

Social News

I am delighted to tell you that once again we have teamed up with our good friends The Haslemere Thespians to bring you the most anticipated event of the year....

The 2022 Christmas Party!!

A party hosted at Grayshott Village Hall on Saturday 17 December (7:30pm - 11:30pm) with festive karaoke hosted by our very own Lizzie Hales!

Tickets are £10 per person and are available to buy on The Haslemere Players website (via PayPal) (Tickets have limited availability so to secure your place and avoid disappointment, make sure you book sooner rather than later!) Please bring your own drinks and a plate to share at the buffet.

Look forward to seeing you all there!

On 4th February we shall be holding a **Ceilidh** again at Grayshott Village Hall. The caller will be Peter Donaldson who did such a splendid job for us last time. Watch this space for further details.

There are plenty of events to look forward to in the New Year so keep your eyes peeled for updates in the newsletter, on the website and on social media!

All the best from the Social Team!



Dates for Your Diary

- | | |
|-------------------|---|
| 17 December | Christmas Party jointly with the Thespians at Grayshott Village Hall |
| 20 December | Mince Pies at Haslemere Hall |
| 13-15, 20, 21 Jan | Haslemere Thespians production of Dick Whittington |
| 24-28 January | Farnham Operatic production of Sweeny Todd |
| 4 February | Players Ceilidh at Grayshott Village Hall |
| 21 – 25 Mar | Kinky Boots at Haslemere Hall |
| 1 – 3 June | Show Stoppers at Haslemere Hall |



Contributions to the Newsletter to
Linda Donaldson
Linda.haslemere@btinternet.com