



# Players Patter No 205 - May 2023

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

## Treasurer's Report

TICKETS, TICKETS, TICKETS, BUY, BUY, BUY,

If you remember this chant from the last newsletter then you will be extremely pleased to know that people did Buy, Buy, Buy tickets for Kinky Boots.... 1507 tickets to be precise which is remarkable! Thanks to this great effort along with some shrewd cost control we made a strong profit on the show which when combined with some amazing results from our general Studio sales (costume hires/sales etc) means we are in with a fighting chance of breaking even for 2022/23! This is more than I could have hoped for only 6 months ago.

Maintaining momentum is what we need to do now. Showstoppers is often a good earner for us if it is well attended and then we have Calendar Girls at the end of the year which should sell very well. I have had a sneak preview of the shows for 2024 which are equally as exciting as the ones we have had this year, so all of the right factors are in place for us to continue to prosper.

Of course, we can't do anything without theatre bums on theatre seats, so I implore you to continue to support the society with your kind attendance at shows, social events and fund-raisers.

You will recall that we have a mountain to climb to raise funds for Project Studio 25 so maximising income is critical. With this in mind I will shamelessly say that general donations are always welcome too, and if you want something with a return on investment then for a generous donation I could be persuaded to dress in drag again! For an even bigger donation, I could be persuaded not to!!

This positive and hopeful message seems well placed as we find ourselves in the middle of spring and approaching the summer season. Everything seems better when the sun is shining which I am sure it will be when the Players Coronation Float joins the Coronation procession next week.

I hope to see you all there. Mike

Mike Byrne Treasurer ([mb.hp.treasurer@gmail.com](mailto:mb.hp.treasurer@gmail.com))

## Chairman's Letter

Finally, Spring seems to have sprung..... although I said that a few weeks ago and then made the huge mistake of taking my winter coat to the dry cleaners!

It's an exciting time for Players. **KINKY BOOTS** was an absolute spectacle. We worked really hard to get the message out and get ticket numbers up and were delighted that the 1,507 people who came to see the show were absolutely blown away by it. So many people worked so hard to bring the show to the stage and the applause was well deserved. Thank you to everyone who played a part both on and off stage and made the show so moving, funny and utterly joyous. In particular a huge thank you to Jamie O'Donnell who stepped in to direct when Howard had to step away and his partner, Jessi McCluskey, who took over the reins in the last few days when Jamie had to leave us for a professional job. Thank you to both of you, your creativity and professional experience took us to the next level. Mike will report elsewhere in the newsletter on the financial result but we can safely say it was a success!!

We're now already half way through rehearsals for **SHOW STOPPERS – A JOURNEY OF LOVE** which will be on from 1-3 June at the Haslemere Hall. Director Kim Seymour and MD Justin Luke have brought together some wonderful musical numbers which take us through all stages of a relationship and this promises to be a great evening's entertainment so don't forget to [BOOK HERE](https://www.haslemerehall.co.uk/theatre/showstoppers-a-journey-of-love/)

It's not long before we'll be starting work on our second major musical of the year, **CALENDAR GIRLS**. The presentation evening will be on Tuesday 6 June at Shottersmill Club with auditions on **SATURDAY 17 June** at 1.30pm at the Haslemere Hall (note these are on Saturday rather than Sunday!). Director Alex Boughton and MD Lizzie Hales have been working hard on plans and this promises to be a great production to be involved with. Please see more from Alex elsewhere in the newsletter. Get your tickets booked **NOW!** On our **EARLY BIRD OFFER** which runs to 31 August <https://www.haslemerehall.co.uk/theatre/calendar-girls-the-musical/>.

We're also incredibly excited to announce the shows which will make up our 2024 offering. In March we have **FOOTLOOSE** which a great mix of older and younger parts and lots of dancing, in June we'll be taking a break from Show Stoppers and bringing you a smaller musical, **LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS** and in October we bring to the stage the incredibly funny **ADDAMS FAMILY**. It's so great to

### Chairman's message continued

know we have the talent and drive to deliver three shows, all of which are **NEW** to Haslemere Players. You can read more about them from our musical sub-committee leader, Alex Boughton, elsewhere in the newsletter.

We'll be holding this year's AGM on Sunday 23 July at 12.30 pm which is very kindly being hosted by Chris & Susanna Lloyd. We're reverting to the popular BBQ format entertainment (and open mic) provided by Lizzie Hales. Everyone is, of course, welcome to the AGM and tickets for the BBQ & Entertainment that follows will be £10 pp (£7 pp for children).

Last but by no means least, we'll be forming a **FUND-RAISING SUB COMMITTEE**, led by Alex Boughton, to come up with ideas for our **PROJECT STUDIO 25** fund raising project and would love you to get involved.

Vicki Gavin

[chairman@haslemereplayers.com](mailto:chairman@haslemereplayers.com)

### **Right Royal Wardrobe news**

As I write, the ceremonial coach for our Coronation Procession is being constructed by our royal craftsmen Adrian and Gary. On Monday 8th May, this coach will take our own Charles and Camilla through the streets of Haslemere.

It would be marvellous if as many of you as possible could walk in the procession as it's an ideal opportunity to hand out flyers for our next two shows.

We are dressing in red, white and blue outfits from our wardrobe or in something of your own if you'd prefer.. If you haven't anything suitable but would like to participate, please email me and I'll arrange a time for you to come in - even earlier on the Monday will do if you decide at the last minute.

So let's show Haslemere how patriotic and flag waving The Players can be.

Mary-Lou

### **Showstoppers - A journey of love**

Love is in the air and rehearsals are underway for Showstoppers 2023. We have strong cast of 29 players, old and new, who are working hard to bring you three



evenings full of romance from the musicals (1st-3rd June). Have you booked your tickets yet?

It's also not too late to get involved! As part of the production, I would like to include short video stories from members about their love lives. Do you have a sweet/interesting/funny (or even sad) story about how you and your love one met; got engaged; your wedding day; trying to get or getting pregnant; and/or your general life together. Please, please get in touch!

In an ideal world, I would like you to grab your phone and film yourselves (or on your own), in landscape, telling your story to the camera. Each story only needs to be 30-60secs long and you can do more than one. Or, I can pop round and film you. This is the kind of thing I'm looking for if you want inspiration:-

<https://youtu.be/lzi2G68CMiE>

Please get involved! Don't just presume everyone else will, because they won't! If you have any questions, please give me a call on 07810443566 or email [kimchivers@hotmail.com](mailto:kimchivers@hotmail.com).

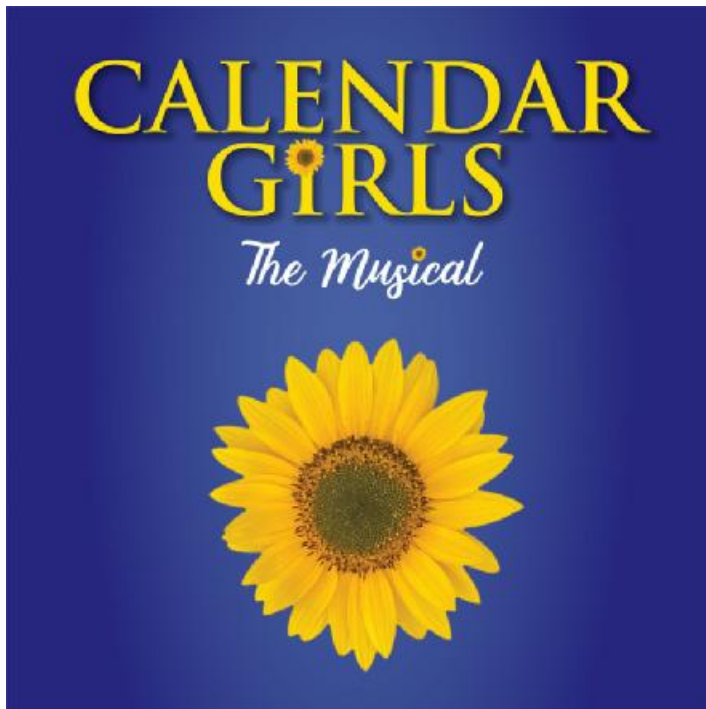
Deadline, if we can, Monday 8th May so get filming!

Many thanks,

Kim (Director)

*Contributions to the Newsletter to*

*Linda Donaldson*



## Calendar Girls the Musical 24-28 October 2023

A funny, heart-warming musical, which like the 2003 film was based on a true story, *Calendar Girls the Musical* follows the story of best friends Annie and Chris, and 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 local hospital and to raise funds hits upon the idea of printing a WI calendar featuring their members discreetly posing nude. Written by Tim Firth with music and lyrics by Gary Barlow, this is a story about love, loss, friendship and community, and quintessentially British in its humour and feel.

The show has 18 named parts of various sizes, plus a small ensemble. We will be auditioning all parts and anyone who'd like to be involved, including the ensemble. The character list as follows:

- Chris**, ringleader, comes up with the Calendar idea
- Annie**, Chris's best friend, wife of John
- Cora**, vicar's daughter, single mother
- Jessie**, retired school teacher, strong wit
- Celia**, ex air hostess, trying to fit in to village life
- Ruth**, eager to please baker, with a useless husband
- John**, Annie's husband
- Rod**, Chris's husband
- Colin**, Jessie's husband
- Dennis**, Celia's husband
- Lawrence**, photographer
- Marie**, head of the Knapely WI
- The Miss Wilsons**, two sisters members of the WI
- Danny**, Chris and Rod's teenage son
- Jenny**, Marie's teenage daughter
- Tommo**, Cora's teenage son
- Brenda Hulme**, WI guest speaker and
- Lady Cravenshire**, spring fete judge (often played by the same actor)

Key dates for Calendar Girls in June (locations TBC)

Presentation evening	Tue 6	19:30
Audition rehearsals	Thu 8, Tue 13, Thu 15	19:30
Alternative auditions	Thu 15	21:00 (TBC)
Auditions	Sat 17, Has Hall	14:00
First rehearsal	Tue 20 full cast call	19:30
Second rehearsal	Thu 22 - read through	19:45

If you have any questions about the show or the auditions, please feel free to email Alex at

[alexandraboughton@hotmail.com](mailto:alexandraboughton@hotmail.com)

We look forward to seeing you at the presentation evening on 6th June.

Alex and Lizzie

### Calling all Ushers and FOH Managers

Are you able to help Front of House either as an Usher or as a Front of House Manager for Showstoppers? We will need 3 ushers and one Hall trained Manager each night.

If you can help, please contact Pamela Depledge on [pameladepledge@talktalk.net](mailto:pameladepledge@talktalk.net)



Are you good with numbers? Do you love a spreadsheet? Are you keen to support your society but not sure how? If that's the case, we have the perfect opportunity. At the AGM on 23 July the fabulous Mike Byrne will be stepping down as **TREASURER** so we'll be looking to vote someone in to take his place. An aptitude for numbers would be helpful but we'll make sure you receive a proper handover with full training on how to use our system (a very clever spreadsheet designed by our President, Hamish, which does most of the job for you!) and there'll be support available from several past treasurers as and when needed.

We're also looking for people to join the main **COMMITTEE** and our sub-committees which cover marketing, social and fund-raising so there are lots of ways to get involved. Our hope is that with just a bit of time from lots of people, we can spread the load and not rely too heavily on a small number of individuals.

If you'd like more information, please get in touch, we'd love to hear from you!

Vicki ([chairman@haslemereplayers.com](mailto:chairman@haslemereplayers.com))

## YOUR MARKETING TEAM

I would like to introduce you to your Marketing Sub-Committee and give a brief note of the work that we do to sell the shows and our society.

I mainly do the co-ordinating, bringing flyers to rehearsals to hand out, helping with the messaging to our members and subscribers, and organising our flyering opportunities, as well as helping take rehearsal photos to be used in Social Media.

**Carolyn** is our amazing designer and, as well as producing the fantastic graphic designs of our shows, she ensures that everything gets to the printers and she also produces the images we use for Social Media.

**Dawn** has recently joined us to take on Social Media and will be putting together the posts that go out from The Players accounts but also get onto the Community Boards.

**Debbie** is our wonderful publicist, who arranges for the Herald, radio stations and other exciting initiatives to get the word out. She also rings round all those businesses (large and small) to get advertising in the programme.

**Adrian and Zac** are going to be working together to freshen up our website which provides all your Society needs, not just for shows but also social events and general society news.

**Adrian and Ben** are also fantastic at providing many of the rehearsal photos (vastly better than mine) and we are very grateful for their time on providing these for our posts.

The Marketing Team work very hard to provide the materials and messaging to sell tickets for our shows and raise funds to ensure that we can keep doing what we enjoy most - putting on a show!

We start thinking about the marketing strategy of our shows many months before our last one is over.

It is important to note that we can't do any of this without you the cast and members who make sure to share and repost our Social Media messages, come out to join us at the flyering events and letting Debbie know of anyone who might be interested in a slot in the programme. You are key to the success of our marketing campaigns.

So we would like to let you know that we are always happy to receive ideas of what else we can do to promote our society and shows, and any of us would welcome your input. In addition, should you wish to join us more regularly, please let me know and we will be happy to include you on our future endeavours.

I hope this gives a little insight into the work we do on your behalf, but remember this is a team and you are all part of the team, so please continue to share and like social media posts, join us for the flyering opportunities (I promise, they do work) and advertise to friends, family and work colleagues.

By selling tickets, we ensure the continuation of your Society

**Clare Nisbet** – [marketing@haslemereplayers.com](mailto:marketing@haslemereplayers.com)



We are sad to report the death of Roger Sydenham who has died aged 93. Roger joined the Players in 1950 where he met his future wife, Pam Springate. At the funeral, attended by Pamela Depledge, Don Stacey and Fay Foster, it was mentioned how Roger and Pam met. Apparently, they were rehearsing Iolanthe where Pam was a fairy with a very long spear-like wand. This got caught in Roger's costume while they were dancing and they were stuck together for the whole scene. They were married in 1953 at St. Christopher's Church here in Haslemere.

Pam has also received an email from Ted Thomson who is writing a family history and wondered if anyone had photos of the King and I in 1976.

A warm welcome to new members Helen Andrews, Daniel Bayley and Charlotte Parrott who have joined us for Show Stoppers.

## Dates for Your Diary

24 – 27 May	<b>Return to the Forbidden Plant</b> by Grayshott Stagers
1-3 June	<b>Show Stoppers</b> at Haslemere Hall
6 June	<b>Calendar Girls</b> Presentation Evening
15-17 June	<b>Raise the Roof</b> at Fleet Church by Farnham AOS
Sat 17 June	Calendar Girls <b>Auditions</b>
20 June	Calendar Girls <b>First rehearsal</b>
23 July	<b>AGM and BBQ</b> at the Lloyd's house in Fernhurst



From The Secretary  
Torwoodlee, Mowatt Road  
Grayshott, Hindhead  
Surrey GU26 6EY  
01428 605237 07786906681  
✉ [pameladepledge@talktalk.net](mailto:pameladepledge@talktalk.net)

### NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the Haslemere Players will be held on Sunday 23 July 2023 at 12 noon at the home of Christopher and Susanna Lloyd, Heart’s Delight, 21 Midhurst Road, Fernhurst, West Sussex GU27 3EJ

#### AGENDA

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 2023. The outgoing Committee’s recommendation is that the subscription for members should be increased from £30 per annum; at present 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, Carolyn Lane, Jane McMichael, Clare Nisbet and Arran Treacher-Evans. All the members are standing for re-election except Mrs Pamela Depledge (who also wishes to retire as Hon. Secretary) and Mr Arran Treacher-Evans. Mr Michael Byrne wishes to discontinue his role as Hon. Treasurer but stay on the Executive Committee.

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 15 July. 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. May 2023

#### 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).....



The Haslemere Players, Founded 1905, Charity No 1172917, Company no 10433813  
Affiliated to NODA