



Players Patter 206 - August 2023

www.haslemereplayers.com

Treasurer's Report

2023 saw three full shows put on by the Players. The Showstoppers slot was replaced with **Kipps** which had been delayed from the previous year. The Autumn Show was **Anything Goes** and the Spring show was **Kinky Boots**. All three shows were a great successes from a production perspective and two of them earned the Players NODA certificates for both performance and programme design.

However, both Kipps and Anything Goes suffered from poor audience numbers and consequently lower ticket sales. This rendered both shows loss making. Thankfully, Kinky Boots went some way to remedy this position having made a surplus of just over £2.6k. Overall there was still a net deficit from shows in 2023 to the tune of (coincidentally) £2.6k.

Happily, non-show Income and Expenditure was good. Income from the hire and sales of costumes/props/microphones plus income from fund raising events (for example the ceilidh) was positive but could have been much higher with better patronage. Costs were lower as the prior year included tree work at the Studio. Also, some old creditor provisions were written off.

Overall 2023 reported a net surplus of £435 compared to a deficit of (£10,385) the year before.

In spite of a positive result, we nevertheless reported a downturn in cash reserves of circa £6k. A large part of this being the purchase of fixed assets. Cash is very important for 2024 as there is a high expense (up to £30k) for building works at the Studio which forms part of our lease obligation. So it is very important that:

1. We refresh our membership and maintain or increase numbers
2. Our members support the fund raising by attending shows and fundraising events
3. Members run their own initiatives or donate wherever possible in order to raise funds. A great example is from Robyn Davies who has already raised £300.00 from her BodyShop fundraising event and from the work that was set in motion by Fiona McGregor with TerraCycle.
- 4 Most important is that EVERYONE gets involved in this. Raising £25k for a small society such as ours is no small task and something that the committee can help to facilitate but not to do in isolation.

Therefore, we need the support and contribution of the whole membership to make it work.

Mike Byrne

Chairman's Report

Here we are in the halcyon days of summer.....OK, that sounded good as an intro but let's be honest, there's nothing halcyon about the intermittent torrential rain we've been having. So, on to exciting Players news!

CALENDAR GIRLS is now cast and rehearsals are well underway. We welcome several newcomers to the society including, Nikki Plowman as single mother, Cora who is joined by Bea Jennings as Jenny, Peter Salt as Danny (both of recent James & the Giant Peach fame), Yvonne Gravely as Lady Cravenshire and Paul Allum as part of the ensemble. In addition we're delighted to see Helen Andrews, Daniel Bayley and Charlotte Parrott who joined the society for Show Stoppers taking on the roles of Annie, Tommo and ensemble respectively and Racheal Rhodes back on stage after a few year's break in the role of Ruth. You can see the full cast list later in this patter - and don't forget to book your tickets with our **EARLY BIRD DISCOUNT** until 31 August. [Book here!](#)

CALENDAR GIRLS also sees us immerse ourselves in the **PROJECT STUDIO 25** Fund raising effort to raise the money needed for the work required to separate the studio from the nursery and add a new fire escape. As well as creating our very own calendar which is available for PRE-ORDER on the Players website (more about that elsewhere in the newsletter), we'll be attending various fetes selling gift bags and cookies to help the fund raising effort and promote the show. Please do come along and support us at Headley Village Fete and the Haslemere Food Festival on Lion Green (both on Saturday 16 September) or at the Haslewey 20th Anniversary Fair on Saturday 30 September.

Chairman's Report (Continued)

We had a lovely time at the **ANNUAL BBQ** on 23 July and would like to extend our thanks to Susanna and Christopher Lloyd for being such generous hosts and Lizzie Hales for her fabulous entertainment. Following the **AGM** held on the same day we're delighted to welcome two new committee members, Jo Weller who will be taking the lead on our Fund Raising sub-committee, supported by Jane McMichael and Chloe Johnson-Jones who's been brave enough to step in to Pamela's shoes as secretary. Like many of you, I was surprised to see in the AGM notice that Pam had decided to step down (she'd kept it very quiet until the last moment!) after no less than 38 years in the role. Pam joined the society for Die Feldermaus in 1965 and continued her involvement throughout raising no less than 5 children, appearing in around 80 productions. Her beautiful soprano voice guaranteed her a solo spot in all our Music Halls and almost all our Show Stoppers productions. She's taken on numerous supporting roles over the years including Lady Boxington in My Fair Lady in 1975, Shandel in Fiddler in both 1976 and 1999, Sister Sophia in the 1993 production of The Sound of Music and her personal favourite, Nimue in Camelot in 1995. Her absolute starring role in recent years though was as The Queen on our Platinum Jubilee Float last year which without doubt stole the show. Pam has seen the society grow and change and has been our constant support throughout the last 38 years.

We also said farewell to Arran Treacher-Evans who's served on the committee for the last couple of years looking after social (not an easy task during the tail end of COVID) so thank you to Arran. Verity Foster will now pick up the reins on social, supported by Mary-Lou Knox and both the fund-raising and the social sub-committees will be looking for 2-3 additional members to join them.

You'll find a full list of committee members and other supporters elsewhere in the newsletter. Fund-raising and social are both hugely important to the society so please do get in touch if you'd like to be involved.

Those present at the AGM also voted to increase the adult acting membership and non-acting membership by £5 and to add a fund-raising levy to this year's annual subscription. Full details can be found elsewhere in the newsletter.

Preparations are also underway for **FOOTLOOSE** which has a great mix of older and younger roles and lots of dancing! The presentation evening for this will be on Tuesday 31 October at Shottermill Club led by Director Fiona McGregor, MD Justin Luke and Choreographer Emma Lumb.

Vicki Gavin

chairman@haslemereplayers.com

2023-24 Membership Fees

Your membership for the 2023-24 year is now due. At the AGM it was agreed that membership fees for the coming year would be as follows:

Membership	Basic Fee	Levy*	Total
Acting Members	£35.00	£10.00	£45.00
Junior Members/ Students	£20.00	£5.00	£25.00
Non-Acting Members	£15.00	£5.00	£20.00
Patrons	£30.00	-	£30.00 min

**The levy mentioned is a contribution towards the funds for the Studio 25 building works which are due to be completed during 2023/2024. These works represent a significant cost to the Society of over £25k and it is essential that we raise funds quickly. The levy is being applied on top of the membership fee this year and will be reviewed again at the next AGM.*

All membership payments for the year are due within 3 months of the AGM. Payment is therefore due by **23 October 2023**. We would be most grateful if you could now pay your annual subscription.

How to Pay:

- By BACS CAF a/c
Sort Code 40 52 40, account no 00013424
- By PayPal on the web-site
www.haslemereplayers.com/membership
- By cheque, payable to **Haslemere Players**
to Jane McMichael, Woodpeckers, Church Lane,
Haslemere, GU27 2BJ
j.mcmichael2@btinternet.com



NO PARKING

AT THE STUDIO

Those of you who are regular users of the studio will be aware that we have a frustrating issue with non-Players using our parking spaces (the 4 at the top of the car park nearest the studio). We have a number of volunteers who regularly need to park whilst working on scenery, props and costumes and they often find that all the spaces are already taken.

We have tried to address this with Toad Hall Nursery who we know regularly use the spaces (and have been known to refuse to move their cars when asked) but pursuing this is difficult when members use the spaces when travelling to London on the train or shopping in the town.

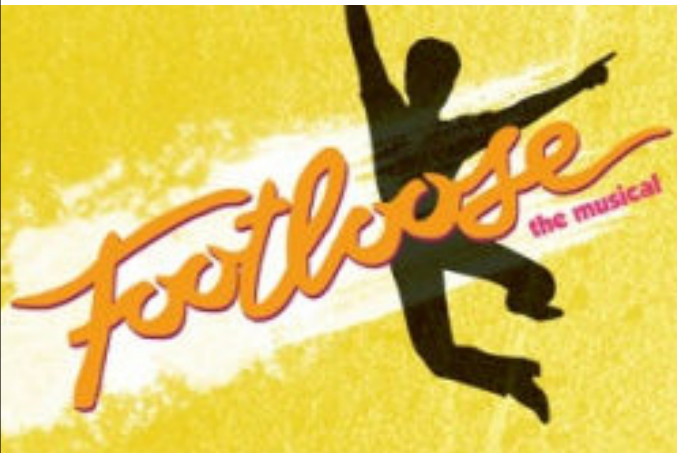
Please can we ask that you don't park at the studio unless you are there on Players business, unless this has been arranged in advance. This will help us to resolve the issue.

Thank you for your support.

Footloose the Musical

Haslemere Players are fortunate to have a fabulous line-up in store for 2024 and I am excited to bring to the stage our first offering in March 2024 - Footloose the Musical. There is a familiar list of classics on the song list including; "Holding out for a Hero," "Let's hear it for the boy," "Footloose" and "Almost Paradise" together with some high energy dance numbers and a heart-rendering plot there really is something for everyone to enjoy.

I am pleased to be once again working with Justin Luke as Musical Director and am delighted that Emma Lumb has agreed to join the team as our choreographer! The rest of the production team are rapidly falling into place so do not hesitate to reach out to myself on haslemere.players.shows@gmail.com or a member of the committee (email addresses are on the website) if you are keen to be involved in any way.



What's the story?

After his dad walks out, Ren, a dance loving teen from Chicago, moves with his mother to the small town of Bomont to live with his Aunt and Uncle. Little does he know that the town, still grieving from untimely deaths of four of its youngsters in a car accident, has placed a ban on all music and dance.

The town pivots around the teachings of the church led by Reverend Moore whose words are taken as law. Unfortunately, his son was one of those lost in the accident. We journey through his grief and see how disconnected he has become from his loved ones. In particular, we see this through his wife Vi's pleas for acknowledgement and love. Despite fond memories of their past the couple are isolated from one another. Their daughter Ariel, an intelligent young woman, is testing her father's boundaries in a bid to reconnect to the person she once knew. This includes dating local bad boy Chuck Cranston, whom even her trio of friends Rusty, Urleen and Wendy Jo are wary of.

The trio act in many ways as narrators through-out the show providing much needed light and humour. They are often seen alongside their male counterparts who bring flashes of mischief and energy to their roles helping to weave a sense of normality into the town as well as highlighting everyone's desperation for expressive freedom.

Ren feels frustrated by the restrictive lifestyle and finds himself in trouble at every corner. He is strong willed and finds it challenging to be contained after growing up in the city. This restlessness helps him to catch the eye of Ariel. They start spending more time together, working through their respective grief and ultimately, they fall in love.

Ren's persistence, coupled with Ariel's intelligence, helps them eventually to break down Reverend Moore's objections. He can see that whilst he has been trying to guide everyone around him, his own grief has affected his judgement and he has lost himself along the way. By laying down the burden of grief he remembers that his job is to help people find joy in their lives. In a bid to bring life back into the community he approves the High School dance.

Despite the starting point of this show being that of great sadness, the story-line alongside the vibrant music and (secretive) dancing is a joyous reminder that we are resilient and that together we can find forgiveness and happiness again.

Key dates for your Footloose Diary

- 31 October – Presentation evening (Shottermill Club)
- 2 November – Audition rehearsal (Haslemere Hub)
- 7 November – Audition rehearsals (Shottermill Club)
- 9 November – Audition rehearsals and early auditions (Haslemere Hub)
- 12 November – Auditions
- 10 March – Get in.
- 16 March – 23 March – Show run up and show week

Wardrobe Amnesty

Have you ever been to get something from your cupboard, garage or wardrobe knowing full well that it's there, only to find that it has mysteriously disappeared? Frustrating isn't it?

At the Studio we are constantly searching for items which we know should be there but they aren't. It's particularly annoying when assuring a member of the public that we can accept their request to find that the item we were thinking of, is nowhere to be found.

These aren't items which have gone out on hire because they are carefully recorded and checked in on their return so it has to be cast members who have failed to return things after shows or after borrowing them. It can be simple items such as petticoats, hats, belts or wigs or more glamorous dresses, men's jackets or frock coats.

So please can you delve into those drawers, dig deeply into the Narnia expanses of your wardrobes or examine the contents of that random carrier bag lurking in the cupboard under the stairs. If you find anything which you know belongs to Players – you may have had it for several years – please, please bring it back.

To enable you to do this without repercussions, we are offering an Autumn Amnesty where your return will be greeted with a welcoming smile. If you are too embarrassed to own up to your hoarding, place the items in a carrier bag and leave them outside the Studio door before 10 am on Saturday morning!

We are usually at the Studio from 10 am til 12 pm on Saturdays as a minimum but can open up on weekdays or stay longer on Saturdays by arrangement.

Happy hunting – I look forward to seeing you!

Mary-Lou

YOUR COMMITTEE 2023-24

Following the AGM on 23 July, your committee is as follows:

Hamish Donaldson, President

Vicki Gavin, Chair

Chloe Johnson-Jones, Hon. Secretary

Mike Byrne, Hon. Treasurer

Alexandra Boughton, Vice chair and show selection sub-committee chair

Verity Foster, Social sub-committee chair and show selection sub-committee member

Mary-Lou Knox, Wardrobe Custodian and social sub-committee member

Carolyn Lane, Marketing sub-committee member

Clare Nisbet Marketing sub-committee chair

Jane McMichael, Membership secretary and fund-raising sub-committee member

Jo Weller, Fund-raising sub-committee chair,

In addition to the main committee we are lucky to have additional support from:

Debbie Bowyer, Marketing sub-committee member (PR and programme advertising), Fund raising sub-committee member.

Tony Creasey, Show selection sub-committee member

Linda Donaldson, Newsletter editor

Gary Moorshead, Studio coordinator

Steph Ridler, Props custodian and Wardrobe

Adrian Stent, Show selection sub-committee member and Haslemere Hall trustee

Dawn Stephens, Marketing sub-committee member (social media)

Look out for an update to our [Meet the Team](#) page.



We are looking for 2-3 additional members of both the fund-raising and the social sub-committees so please do get in touch if this is an area where you feel you might be able to help. Please contact Jo Weller for fund raising and Verity Foster for social.

Mike Byrne has kindly agreed to remain in the role of treasurer until a replacement can be found but we are actively looking for someone to take this on. Please get in touch with Mike if you'd like more information.



Dates for your diary

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| 24-26 Aug | Chitty Chitty Bang Bang by Imagine That Productions |
| Sat. 9 Sept | Last Night of the Proms at St. Luke's, Grayshott |
| 3 – 7 Oct | Hay Fever by Haslemere Thespians |
| 24 – 28 Oct | Calendar Girls at Haslemere Hall |
| 31 Oct | Presentation Evening of Footloose at Shottermill Club |
| 12 Nov | Footloose Auditions |
| 23 – 25 Nov | The School for Influencing Scandal by Grayshott Stagers |
| 16 – 23 Mar | Footloose Show Week |

Last night of the Proms

Grayshott, Saturday 9th Sept

You may remember last year we were all set to provide songs from the musicals for the first half of the Grayshott Last Night of the Proms celebrations. Unfortunately, the death of the Queen meant the event was cancelled. But, we are trying again this year!

Please let me know asap if you would like to be involved (and if you are able to do a solo or duet - preferably something you know well that doesn't need a huge amount of rehearsal!). We will go with half a dozen easy songs people know, plus a couple of solos/duets. It will be a great opportunity to promote Calendar Girls! (But all members of the society welcome!)

The main concert will be 7.30pm on Saturday 9th Sept at St Luke's in Grayshott. There will be a rehearsal in the afternoon. I would also propose a rehearsal on the evening of Sunday 3rd Sept and, if needed, Fri 8th Sept.

Please email kimchivers@hotmail.com or drop me a text on 078104435566, by SUNDAY 20th AUG, if you can help.



LAST NIGHT OF THE PROMS
SATURDAY 9th SEPTEMBER
St. LUKE'S CHURCH
Picnic from 6.00pm
A **FREE** Community Event
7.30pm Live Music by Haslemere Players
9.00pm Live BBC feed from the Albert Hall
Contact Robert on 07950 950017
Tickets: promsingrayshott@gmail.com

it's FREE!

BBC Proms



The Calendar Girls and Boys pick sunflowers...!

On Sunday 6th August, the cast of *Calendar Girls* visited Sam's Sunflower Field on Hayling Island. The cast had a great morning picking Sunflowers, having a natter and taking publicity photos for our social media, the programme and also the **2024 Calendar!**

One of the first main initiatives for fundraising for **Project Studio 25**, we are producing and selling 2024 wall calendars, featuring the full cast of *Calendar Girls*.

The Calendar will feature recreations of the shots from the show, as well as other photos taken this weekend at the Farm. They are £10 each and all profits will go towards Project Studio 25. These will be available to buy during show week and thereafter, and they will also be available to **pre order soon** from our website. We'll keep you posted!



GRAPEVINE NEWS OF MEMBERS

A warm welcome to our new members who are saluted in Vicky's Chairman's Letter.

We are sorry to report the death of Mike Cubitt who appeared in 18 shows between 1985-1996. He was a principal in roles such as Jupiter (Orpheus in the Underworld) and William Shadbolt (Yeomen of the Guard), as well as performing supporting roles in the chorus. His height was used to great comic effect as Tibia (Wizard of Oz) and he will be long remembered for his rendition of Has Anybody Seen My Tiddler in one of our Old Time Music Halls. Sadly Gill, his wife, is now in a Home in Farnham but we all send our condolences to her and all the family.