



Players Patter 207 - Nov 2023

www.haslemereplayers.com

Treasurer's Report

Far be it from me to grab the headlines off the rest of this magnificent publication, but I do have two very exciting things to tell you all about:

Calendar Girls:

Who would have thought that seeing some of our most glamorous ladies revealing their fabulous talents would have attracted so much attention.. but it did!!

Amongst other shows, the boys in the Full Monty managed to pip the girls by an inch (or two!) in terms of ticket sales, but it is fair to say that the girls held the bottom line very securely as Calendar Girls was officially the most profitable show on record! This was achieved by a combination of great ticket volumes, higher average ticket price (due to price and mix of audience) along with a very well managed cost budget. To have achieved this and having produced such an brilliant and highly commended show is a massive achievement for Alex and everyone involved. WELL DONE and THANK YOU from your very happy Treasurer!!

Fundraising:

Our fundraising pot is a constant work in progress, but it is certainly beginning to build. We are currently sitting at £1,815 and I know of at least another £500 that will go into the pot relating to sale of Calendar Girls calendars.

The main sources of fund raising so far have been from one off member donations £560, fund raising events (including Headley Fete / Last Night of the Proms etc) £700, Calendar Girls Calendar Advertising space £450, and donations via new memberships.

All in all, this is a cracking start to the fundraising drive and of course there is plenty more opportunity to raise funds in the pipeline.

Keeping up the Momentum

As a final point, can I please encourage you all to keep up the momentum. Every single show I see, I am able to register the joy that we bring to people's lives either through seeing a show or being a part of one. Yes the stresses and strains can be huge at times, but the result makes so many people just that little bit happier that everything becomes worthwhile.

For the Players to keep entertaining in this way, we need to raise those funds and as ever, patronage is the key to it all. Bums on seats at shows, social events and fund raising events make such a big difference and small donations from lots of people can really turn the dial on how much we raise.

Have a very MERRY CHRISTMAS everyone and when you make your resolutions for the New Year remember to include that you will do your best to attend all of the Events that the Haslemere Players put on in 2024 !!!

Mike Byrne

Chairman's Report

Brrrrr.....the cold weather has certainly kicked in today but what glorious sunshine. Gorgeous to look at but rather bracing to be out in!

I started my last newsletter piece referencing the "halcyon days of summer" so it's clearly been a little while and there's lots to bring you up to date on.

CALENDAR GIRLS hit the stage at the end of October and what a resounding success. I'd seen several productions in the run up to ours and I can genuinely say, I think ours absolutely shone and with a standing ovation every night, I think we can safely say the audience agreed. A huge well done to Alex Boughton on her directorial debut, along with Lizzie Hales as MD and Kim Seymour as Production Manager. Once again, we were supported by a cast of what seemed like thousands behind the scenes so a shout out to everyone who helps and supports behind the scenes. We couldn't do this without you!

Many of you will be aware that we created our very own **CALENDAR** which you can order for just £10. 50% of profits will go to The Fountain Centre and the remaining 50% will go towards 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. It's a great calendar so please support this if you can.

<https://www.haslemereplayers.com/cg-calendar/>

As one show closes, another one is waiting in the wings and we were delighted to see such an amazing turnout for **FOOTLOOSE**. Congratulations to everyone who was cast, I can't wait to see how director Fiona McGregor and MD Justin Luke bring this high energy, feel good show to the stage. It's sounding amazing already and we're only a few weeks in so get your tickets booked. Early Bird offer until the end of January for the show from 19 – 23 March (a week earlier than usual due to Easter).

<https://www.haslemerehall.co.uk/theatre/footloose/>

In a change to our standard programme, we're taking advantage of having a little longer for the early June slot and bringing you the cult favourite **LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS** directed by Andy Boughton. To make the most of the time available and so we can dive straight in to rehearsals the week after Footloose, we'll be holding auditions for these in February. More about that from Andy elsewhere in the newsletter.

Chairman's Report (Continued)

On the **SOCIAL SCENE** we had a lovely tea party on 8 October where we invited along members from the last *mumblesunderbreath* years and a great time was had by all. There was far too much cake (who knew such a thing existed) but it was really great to catch up with everyone. We have lots of great events coming up, the first of which is our **SONGS YOU'LL NEVER SING** Christmas Party on Friday 15 December organised by our social sub committee (Verity Foster, Mary-Lou Knox, Zac Rasulian, Thomas Edser and Ingrid Collins). Book online <https://www.haslemereplayers.com/christmas-party-2023/> and for just £10 (under 16s £5) you can come along and have a fun evening with friends, Christmas nibbles, a paying bar and great entertainment. This will be followed up by another tea party, a Barn Dance in February and lots of other ideas in the pipeline.

Our social events are also supporting our fund raising efforts for **PROJECT STUDIO 25** so please do join us when you can. Our **FUND RAISING** sub-committee, led by Jo Weller along with Jane McMichael have had their thinking caps on and you can read more about their plans elsewhere in the newsletter.

We really value your engagement with social and fund raising events so even if you're not in our current show, stay in touch and stay involved.

Also, stay warm and have a very happy Christmas & New Year.

Vicki Gavin

chairman@haslemereplayers.com

Little Shop of Horrors

I am very pleased to have been invited to direct Little Shop of Horrors, an American horror comedy musical which, since its first stage production in 1982, has achieved cult status. Written by Howard Ashman and Alan Menken (Menken also wrote the music for *The Little Mermaid*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *Newsies*) the musical is based upon a low-budget 1960's film. This dark comedy is set in a Skid Row florists shop in downtown New York and follows the fortunes of Seymour, a hapless employee in Mushnik's flower shop, who raises an alien plant from Outer Space with tragic consequences. As the show's prologue warns



...*"the human race suddenly encountered a deadly threat to its very existence and this terrifying enemy surfaced in the seemingly most innocent and unlikely of places"*.

This brilliant show, with dark comedy and superb music, will be staged for four performances on 6-8 June 2024 taking our usual Showstoppers slot. However, the presentation for the show is set much earlier on Wednesday 7 February with auditions on Saturday 17 February! Anyone who is interested in being involved in this strange but highly popular production, infrequently performed because of its small cast of nine, is warmly invited to step into the floral world of terror at the presentation when all will be revealed.

Andy

Last Night of the Proms at Grayshott

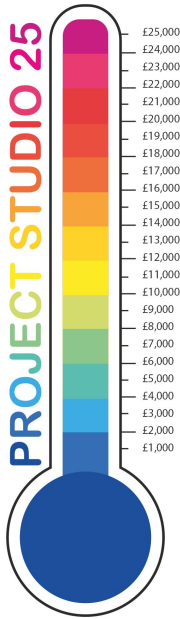
The Players performed a Last Night of the Proms at St Luke's in Grayshott and raised funds for **Project Studio 25**. Justin played the Keyboard and Tony Creasey was our compere.

The programme:

1. Do Re Me (Sound of Music) - Dawn Stephens and the The Company
2. Stars (Les Mis) - Lewis Hoskins
3. Do you love me (Fiddler on the Roof) - Vicki Gavin and David Greenwood
4. Love changes everything (Aspects of Love) - Peter Lucas and The Company
5. Superkalafragalisticexpialidious and Fly a Kite (Mary Poppins) - Ellis Nicholls. Charlotte Parrot and The Company
6. So I've had a little work done (Calendar Girls) - Dawn Stephens
7. Hello Dolly (Hello Dolly) - Sally Waghorn and The Company
8. More I cannot wish you (Guys and Dolls) - David Greenwood
9. I'm going to wash that man right out of my hair (South Pacific)
10. Climb every mountain (Sound of Music) - Vicki Gavin
11. Seasons of Love (Rent) - The Company



Project Studio 25 fundraising Your Society Needs YOU!



As you are all by now aware, the challenge is on to raise £25,000+ for essential works at the Studio. These works are vital to ensure the future of the Players as we know it. We are a society capable of making magic happen on-stage, so let's get to work and draw on our talents making magic happen off-stage.

In a recent review of Calendar Girls, David Greenwood wrote of the show depicting "a close community and perhaps it takes a community such as the Players to do it justice. There is a huge reservoir of talent and a striving for excellence in this group". "We are very fortunate to have a group with as much talent and heart as the Players: long may it continue."

Let's pull together and draw on our "talent and heart", getting involved in one or all of the following - COMING SOON

- ☐ Grand Prize Draw at the Christmas Party (December 15th) - one ticket free with party entrance ticket, plenty more available for purchase on the evening. Tickets also available for purchase in advance at Footloose rehearsals! Please contact Jo Weller if you would like to purchase tickets at any other time.

You could win: Christmas hamper, Meal at Chilli Nights, Drinks at The Mill, Waitrose vouchers, Champneys goodies, pair of tickets to see a film at Haslemere Hall and lots more.

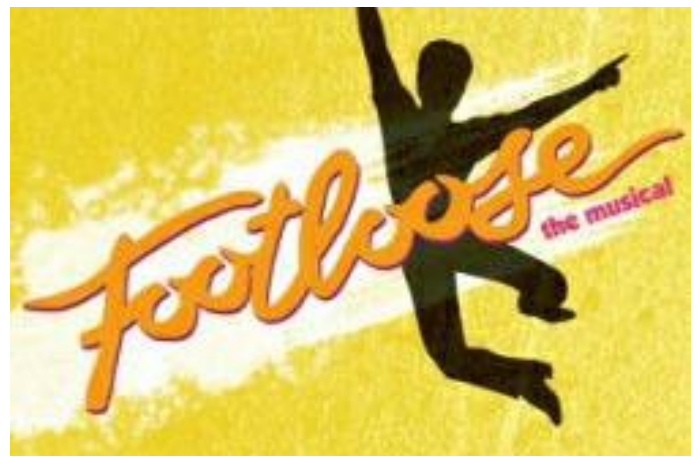
Watch out for more fundraising news in 2024

- ☐ launch of our 100 Club - monthly lottery draw
- ☐ Donate via the Just Giving link on our website. (Don't forget - Calendar Girls calendars available for purchase)
- ☐ April 2024 - Sponsored 24hr Dance-A-Thon with Lizzie Hales May 2024
- ☐ Support the Players Tea Party in May

We look forward to seeing you at some or all of the above and I can't resist signing off without saying, Teamwork makes the dream work.

Thank you.

Jo Weller, Fund-raising Committee



Footloose

Following the Auditions, here is the cast for Footloose

Ren McCormack	Lewis Hoskins
Ethel McCormack	Emily Butcher
Reverend Shaw Moore	Tony Creasey
Vi Moore	Carolyn Lane
Ariel Moore	Becca McGregor
Lulu Warnicker	Chloe Johnson-Jones
Wes Warnicker (and Choir)	David Greenwood
Rusty	Verity Foster
Urleen	Lucy Egan
Wendy-Jo	Olivia Buxton
Willard Hewitt	Oscar Da Silva
Jeter	Zac Rasulian
Bickle	Oliver Gardner
Garvin	Isaac Lucas
Chuck Cranston	Dan Wigmore
Betty Blast	Robyn Davies
Cowboy Bob	Antony Mee
Coach Roger Dunbar	Paul Allum
Eleanor Dunbar	Kate Buxton
Highschooler 1	Rachel Mawditt
Highschooler 2	Rosie Freeman
Highschooler 3	Izzy Gammon
Highschooler 4	Imogen Clarke

The panel would like to thank everyone for all their hard work; there was much discussion and made for some really difficult decisions. Congratulations to those who were cast, and commiserations to those who will be dis-

HASLEMERE PLAYERS 2024 CALENDAR

Buy your Haslemere Players 2024 calendar
NOW!



GRAPEVINE NEWS OF MEMBERS



Our brave Calendar Girls cast have pulled out all the stops to create a beautiful 2024 calendar.

Featuring calendar scenes as they later appeared in the show, along with stunning pictures from our Sunflower Field photoshoot and a useful date grid, this is the 2024 accessory you really can't be without!

What's more, 50% of the profits will go towards the

PROJECT STUDIO 25

Fund-raising effort, helping the society to continue in to the future.



ORDER HERE

<https://www.haslemereplayers.com/cg-calendar/>



We are delighted to report that we have no less than 14 new members for our next show, Footloose.

In no particular order they are Rosie Freeman, Oliver Gardner, Oscar da Silva, Victoria Barrett, Lucy Egan, Kate Buxton, Olivia Buxton, Luke McIlvenna, Ana Ochoa Gom Fagan, Paul Allum, Antony Mee, Rachel Mawditt, Imogen Clarke and Dan Wigmore.

A big welcome to you all and we very much hope you will enjoy being with us.

We have had to say a sad farewell to Tony McIntee who died in the middle of October. Tony was a brilliant musician and both Adam Forde and Simon Manville have written wonderful memories of him and I hope they will not mind if I have used some of their words.

Tony played for most of the music societies in Haslemere – the Thespians, the Haslemere Players, the Grayshott Stagers, and Opera Omnibus. He was also an organist and played at Lurgashall Church for over 30 years. Several of the Players were at his funeral there on 21st November which was very well attended with representatives from all the Societies.

Tony was a true gentleman in every sense. He had a sense of fun and was always good company. He was rarely heard to say anything negative about anyone. His enthusiasm for music was infectious and he had that gift of making you believe you could do something far beyond your capabilities.

He was a hugely talented and lovely man who will be sadly missed.



Dates for your Diary

- Fri 15 Dec Players Christmas Party
Grayshott Village Hall
- 12 – 20 Jan Once upon a time by Haslemere Thespians
directed by Hazel & Helen
- 23 – 27 Jan Dirty Rotten Scoundrels by Farnham AOS
with Alex and Lewis
- Wed 7 Feb Little Shop of Horrors presentation
- 14 – 17 Feb Patience by Godalming AOS with Becky
- 16-17 Feb Grayshott Stagers one act plays
- Sat 17 Feb Little Shop of Horrors auditions
- 19 – 23 Mar Footloose show week

Haslemere Players Christmas Party



*Songs I'll
Never Sing*

Friday 15th December
7.30 to 11.00pm
Grayshott Village Hall

Have you got a song you'd love to sing but know you'll never get to perform on stage because you're the wrong age, too tall or too short to land the role, or any other reason? Here's your chance to perform your dream song! Just buy your ticket and request your song from haslemereplayers.com/christmas-party-2023 or by scanning the QR code below by Friday 8th December.

Tickets: Adults £10 Under 16s £5

(includes Christmassy nibbles, 1 FREE ticket for the prize draw - drinks available from the cash bar)



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