



Players Patter 209 - August 2024

www.haslemereplayers.com

Chairman's Report

There was I wondering what to write and then I discover how much there is to tell you because our last newsletter was February! Where to begin?

Our March production, **Footloose**, brought such energy and passion to the stage and was a nostalgic trip back to the 80s for cast and audience alike. It was wonderful to welcome so many new (and youthful!) members, 13 in total out of a cast of 32. A huge well done and thank you to everyone who worked so hard to make the production a success, our director Fiona McGregor, assisted by Arran Treacher-Evans, Justin Luke our MD, Georgie da Silva our choreographer as well as assistant choreographers and dance captains Lucy Egan, Verity Foster and Becca McGregor and our production manager (and stage manager) Clare Nisbet. Audiences were wowed by the whole spectacle and the show made a well-deserved surplus of £3,779.

Little Shop of Horrors followed (very) shortly afterwards with a rehearsal period of just 10 weeks. We were able to jump straight in to rehearsals having had the auditions in early February and hats off to the cast and production team for pulling off such an outstanding production in such a short period of time. Again, a huge thank you to everyone involved including director, Andrew Boughton, MD Lizzie Hales and choreographer Mandy Boughton as well as production manager (and DSM) Kim Seymour. Special thanks to Russell Seymour for stepping in as stage manager....apparently he was "voluntold" (I think it could be useful to learn this approach!). Sadly, not such a success from a financial perspective with a loss of £2,779 but let's not forget this is our first musical in the June slot so we were aiming to sell far more tickets than we usually would for Show Stoppers and it clashed with D-Day celebrations.

We're now in the throes of **The Addams Family** and were absolutely blown away by the number of people who turned up to the presentation evening. We had 53 auditions for the 10 main parts (some people auditioning for more than one role) and close to 70 auditions when you add on those for the 15 ancestors who form the chorus.

The show will be a week later than our usual October slot, running from 29 October to 2 November so that it falls in to half term and we'll have an extra matinee on the Friday so get your tickets booked.

<https://www.haslemerehall.co.uk/sales/genres/theatre/the-addams-family>

If you're able to help with Front of House as a manager or usher or selling raffle tickets, we're always grateful for your help so please get in touch.

Plans are already well underway for our 2025 productions **Kiss Me, Kate**, **Company** and **In To The Woods** where we welcome two new (to Players) directors, Sally Waghorn and Nikki Plowman and we're also delighted to welcome back the dynamic duo, Hughie & Jessi O'Donnell. We'll be announcing audition dates for all three shortly so you can plan for the shows you'd like to be involved in.

Also, on the subject of shows, elsewhere in the newsletter you'll find a note from Alex about joining the Show Selection sub-committee. This is such an important part of Players so please get in touch with Alex direct if you'd like to join. It requires a good knowledge of musi-

Financial Report

We're delighted to report an outstanding financial result for the 2023-4 year. Net income from shows was £8,773 with Calendar Girls delivering a record surplus of £4,979. Added to this we had income from hire of costumes and scenery of £3,366, subscription income of £3,010, net income from social events of £1,605 and income from fundraising, donations, gift aid and interest of £11,287. After society running costs we generated a **surplus for the year of £19,830** which will help enormously with Project Studio 25.

Following Mike standing down as treasurer at the AGM, we find ourselves with this position open. It's obviously an important role keeping the society on track financially so we'd love to hear from anyone who may be interested in taking it on and would like to know more.

You need to have an aptitude for numbers and knowledge of excel and in an ideal world, someone with a financial or accounting background would be ideal but we can provide training and support throughout the year, as well as with the year-end accounts so please get in touch.

WE NEED A TREASURER

Vicki Gavin

chairman@haslemereplayers.com

Chairman's Report (Continued)

cals and a willingness to research productions to ensure they're suitable for Players.

Since the last newsletter we've also had the AGM which brought with it several changes to the committee. You'll see a full committee list elsewhere in the newsletter so you know who's doing what, including those involved in our sub-committees. If you'd like to be involved in one of our sub-committees or feel there are things you can do for the society, please do get in touch with any committee member. We're really love to hear from you.

A thank you to those committee members who've stepped down this year. Alex Boughton who will continue to lead our show selection sub-committee, Mary-Lou Knox who will continue to look after our wardrobe and Mike Byrne who, after staying on for an extra year as treasurer, will be having a well-deserved rest (until we convince him that he's really quite bored and would like to join a sub-committee!). See elsewhere in the newsletter for details of the post of treasurer.

Don't forget, we continue to raise funds for Project Studio 25 and you can donate direct using [Go Fund Me](#). A huge thank you to those who've already generously donated, we can't tell you how much we appreciate it.

Vicki Gavin

chairman@haslemereplayers.com

Show Selection

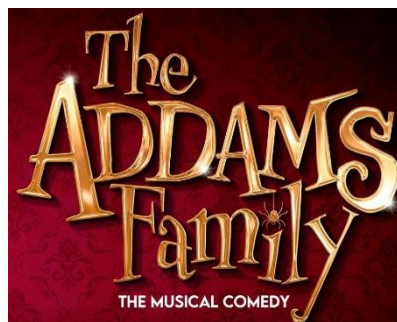
The Show Selection sub-committee are looking to expand the team! We're recruiting one person from the main committee, but we're also looking for a second person from the membership.

The objective of the subcommittee is to extensively research titles and present options to the main committee (guided by a Show Brief) to create a well-balanced programme of shows for each calendar year.

The Show Selection sub-committee meet about five times a year. In between meetings we listen to soundtracks, go see shows/watch Youtube versions/films of shows, chat to potential directors and MDs, consider financial implications, look at society and audience demographics; and understand the pros and cons of all options before we finally present the shortlist to the main committee for decisions.

We're looking for someone with good musical theatre knowledge, as well as a good understanding/experience of different areas of a production (performing, directing, music, technical, costuming, marketing etc). If you think this could be you, and you're interested in joining Verity, Tony, Adrian and me, please get in touch (alexandraboughton@hotmail.com).

Alex, Show Selection subcommittee chair



Autumn is coming, which means pumpkins, spiced lattes, black cats and... our next production, The Addams Family at the Haslemere Hall, Tuesday 29th Oct - Saturday 2nd Nov 2024. It is half-term,

so we are trying something new - an additional matinee on Friday 1st Nov.

After record breaking numbers at the presentation evening and auditions, we have a cast for The Addams Family! Thank you to all those who came along - the quality of the auditions was particularly high and the decisions were so hard. But I'm sure the final cast of 26 are going to be phenomenal.

We are deep in that stage of blocking and learning choreography. Needless to say, everyone is working really hard! As ever, if you would like to get involved in another capacity, please do get in touch. Alex B (production manager) is looking for crew, props, prompts, chaperones, publicity, FOH teams, get in/out volunteers etc. Adrian S and Gary M are heading up the set construction and are always keen for volunteers, especially those handy with a screwdriver or paintbrush. Chloe JJ is coordinating costumes and would also love to hear from anyone proficient with a needle and thread (or sewing machine!).

Other than that, please buy your tickets!! Tell your friends. Share the social media posts etc etc. It all helps.

Wardrobe news

At the wardrobe, we are working constantly to look after our valuable resource which sometimes inevitably, requires an overhaul and a cull. We now have a considerable amount of clothing - not necessarily costumes but more ordinary items, which are taking up space.

A car boot sale is planned for later in September but prior to that, we are opening the Studio from 10 am until 2 pm on Saturday 7th September for our membership, members of other societies and anybody else who may be interested, to come along and pick up a bargain. We have some lovely dresses for example, which may be useful as fabric to make something else.

So please put the date in your diary and tell anybody else who may be interested. If you can't make the date but would like to take a look, please email me and I'll arrange an alternative time.

We hope to see you then.

Mary-Lou

YOUR COMMITTEE 2024-25

Following the AGM on 16 July, your committee is as follows:

Hamish Donaldson, President

Vicki Gavin, Chair

Chloe Johnson-Jones, Hon. Secretary

Clare Nisbet, Vice Chair and technical

Graham Ferris, Fundraising sub-committee

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

Carolyn Lane, Marketing sub-committee member

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

Zac Rasulian, Website and social sub-committee member

Racheal Rhodes, Fundraising sub-committee

The role of **treasurer** is currently vacant so please do let us know if this is an area you might be interested in getting involved with. An aptitude for numbers is needed but full training will be provided.

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

Alexandra Boughton, Show selection sub-committee chair

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

Mary-Lou Knox, Wardrobe custodian

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.



As well as the role of treasurer, we are looking for people to join a variety of sub-committees. For show selection please contact [Alex Boughton](#), for Fundraising please contact [Racheal Rhodes](#), for marketing please contact [Carolyn Lane](#) and for social please contact [Verity Foster](#).

2025 Show Announcements

Kiss Me Kate, 25th – 29th March 2025

Company, 5th – 7th June 2025

Into the Woods, 21st – 25th October 2025

Kiss Me Kate kicks off the year with this joyful company show. The ultimate battle of the sexes takes centre stage (literally) as former spouses Lilli Vanessi and Fred Graham feud on stage and off during a musical presentation of *The Taming of the Shrew*. A similar feud is going on with their younger co-stars Lois and Bill, and on top of that two gangsters are wandering backstage trying to collect a debt. What could possibly go wrong?!

We're delighted that Sally Waghorn will be taking the Director reins, with Justin Luke leading the Musical Direction, and Mandy Boughton putting us through our paces with her choreography. With lots of supporting and ensemble roles to aid in the high jinks, a bit of Shakespeare, and a Cole Porter score including 'Another Opening, Another Show', 'So in Love', 'Brush up your Shakespeare' and 'Too Darn Hot'; this comedy classic is sure to be lots of fun.

Company

Following on from the change to the June show with *Little Shop of Horrors* in 2024, we're excited to announce that *Company* will take this slot in 2025. This George Firth and Stephen Sondheim musical meets confirmed bachelor Bobby, his friends and girlfriend(s) on his 35th birthday and follows their need to see him married and 'settled down'. Through a series of hilarious interactions over dinners, drinks and a wedding, Bobby contemplates the pros and cons of his unmarried status. Written for 14 people, this challenging musical takes a sophisticated and honest look at modern, adult relationships through a brilliant, energetic score and very vivid, real characters.

Although no stranger to directing, we welcome Nikki Plowman in her Directorial debut for the Players. Nikki will be very ably assisted by Lizzie Hales as Musical Director.

Into the Woods

October 2025 brings another new title for the Players. Described as a rare modern classic, *Into the Woods* follows a Baker and his wife, who wish to have a child; Cinderella who wishes to attend the King's festival; and Jack, who wishes his cow would give milk. When the Baker and his Wife learn they cannot have a child because of a Witch's curse, the two set off on a journey to break the curse. Everyone's wish is granted, but the consequences of their actions return to haunt them with disastrous results.

Into the Woods has 18 named roles and ensemble, and is an enchanting and touching story about parent-child relationships. Leading us on this fantastical journey, we welcome back Jamie and Jessi O'Donnell who will co-direct and choreograph, with Lizzie Hales taking on her second Sondheim of the year as Musical Director.



LIFE MEMBERS

Not every year, but when we feel that someone has made a significant and continued contribution to the society over a number of years the committee proposes them for Life Membership, to be voted on by the members present at the AGM and this year we elected three such people.

The first is **Mary-Lou Knox** who has worked tirelessly at the studio over many years maintaining and improving our wardrobe, not to mention costuming numerous shows. Mary-Lou joined the society for Pirates of Penzance in 2008 and quickly became involved in the wardrobe as well as our Music Hall and Show Stoppers productions. She's been running our wardrobe for around 15 years during which time the society has brought in over £20,000 in costume hire.

The second is **Steph Ridler**. Steph became involved with props in the late 80s and has been involved in almost every show since. Her encyclopaedic knowledge of props and where to source them has been invaluable to the society and our shows are enhanced by the authenticity of the items that Steph and her team are able to source, either from our own extensive store that she maintains or that she's been able to source elsewhere. And finally, **Mary Coyte** who joined the society for Viva Mexico in 1974 and has been an active member for 50 years. She's been involved with countless shows in that time whether that's on stage in roles such as Katisha in our 1997 production of Mikado, Widow Corney in Oliver in 2012, back stage, doing props, doing costumes – either helping at the studio or as wardrobe mistress, directing shows such as Annie in 2010 and Calamity Jane in 2013, being an usher, selling raffle tickets....you name it, Mary's done it.



Dates for your Diary

22 – 24 August	Imagine That Productions
4 & 5 October	The Wizard of Oz
	Haslemere Thespians
	The Shakespeare Revue
21 – 23 Nov	Grayshott Stagers
	Absurd Person Singular
29 Oct – 2 Nov	Addams Family
25 – 29 March, 2025	Kiss Me Kate
5 – 7 June, 2025	Company
21 – 25 October, 2025	Into the Woods