



# Players Matters\*

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(Please Note: Deadline for next Newsletter -Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> February 2017)  
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## New Members

A warm welcome to new members Nigel and Kathryn Davies

## Presidential Greetings

*So it's Goodbye 2016 and Hello 2017.*

*Where does the time go?*

*Two adult productions and a PYT production . What a lovely start to Christmas we had with our young people entertaining us with Wind in the Willows*

*Thank you all for a smashing show.*

*Well Christmas is now over and I hope you all wined and dined in time-honoured tradition. We now look forward to the second half of our season. Hobson's Choice and Lost in Yonkers and of course yet another PYT production.*

*Don't know about you but I'm already in holiday mode; the case is out of the loft and I'm stocking up on sun-tan lotion.*

*May I wish you all a Wonderful 2017. Keep happy and healthy.*

*Don't forget to keep spreading the word about our lovely theatre. Let's fill the theatre to capacity for the rest of the season.*

*Congratulations go to Charlotte and Chris on their engagement and of course our best wishes go to Rachel Macalpine (Pearson) for her wedding in July.*  
*Val*

## ACT AWARDS NIGHT

Well, what a great evening we had on Saturday 19 November 2016 at the Cresta Court in Altrincham. Eighteen of us enjoyed a delicious meal, entertainment and best of all, cheering like crazy when we took home THREE Youth awards! Congratulations to our amazing Youth Theatre and of course to Barbara and Rob, their fantastic directors!

*The award winners:*

### **ACT Drama - Youth**

#### **Most Original Accomplished Actor**

**Gabe McDermott**

**Micky in Blood Brothers**

#### **Most Original Accomplished Actress**

**Mia Gibson**

**Linda in Blood Brothers &**

**Linda on Our Day Out**

#### **Most Original Youth Production - Drama**

**Blood Brothers**

*A Christmas Production in the Making -From the Wardrobe of Wind in the Willows*

What an event! To anyone who missed the production 16-17<sup>th</sup> December, you missed a very interesting evening. From October, we had been making tunics, ears etc. and Sandra, tail-real professional French knitted tails (on a bobbin). The horse's head came out again, to have a whole new makeover too.

We had a portly *Otter*, in a tweed jacket, padded up underneath. *Toad* was smart in a coat and cravat, his face being very green. Fortunately it did wash off!!

Several *Weasels* in black with bowler hats and *Ratty* was a sight to see in his sailor's outfit. The *Gypsies* and other characters were also dressed to suit their parts.

It was hard work, but I (Pam) enjoyed it a lot. Let's all support the Youth who are going from strength to strength. Next production is at the start of April, so please do come. *Thank you* Barbara and Rob and all the Youth Members. You are doing a sterling job.

*(Taken from the Director's November Play Post Production Notes)*

### THE GENERATION GAP

During rehearsals for *The Anniversary* it became apparent just how wide the generation gap is. A stage direction was given for Tom and Shirley *to go into a clinch*.

"A what?" came the reply.

It took a while to explain to the two young actors what it was. *Oh a kiss and cuddle? That's right*. Fortunately they realised what a *clinch* was and they performed it beautifully.

In the same play "Tom" not only couldn't pronounce "*rhododendron*" but didn't know what it was, to the extent that we changed his line!!!

Then came the issue of using a 1960s telephone. Young people these days only use their thumbs, so, that is what Robbie did, not the easiest of manoeuvres when dialling 999.

### A GENERATION FILLING A GAP

At 19:10 on Friday 25 November, the Friday during the run of *The Anniversary*, Will Scriven's Dad arrived at the theatre, to let me know that poor old Will had suffered a really bad reaction to a recent vaccination and therefore wouldn't be at the theatre.

For those of you who are asking "Who is Will Scriven?", Will is a member of Players Youth Theatre who is a bit of a "whizz" when it comes to lighting.

Panic mode set in as I quickly had to assess the problem and try to solve it. Another of our Youth members said "Dont worry Val. I can operate the lights" In strode Adam who calmly entered the perch and saved the day. Thinking that Will would be back for the final night, I relaxed. However, Will was still not right and scarily Adam couldn't help us out either. Thank goodness for our Youth! Tasha announced that she could do the lights that night. And she did too. Phew, saved again by our younger generation.

They don't panic, they calmly and willingly help us out. Players Theatre has a future!!!

Val.

*And now for an apt little piece as a lead in to our next play-Hobson's Choice in March. See below for the continuing story of .....*

### **The Shoes-The Sequel**– A Family History by Chris Billington

To Recap: Many of you may have read and indeed a few members have made much appreciated comments to me on my recent contribution to the last Newsletter telling the story of my 'acting shoes.' A pair of plain old fashioned

ordinary black shoes with no modern frills. Perfect for plays as plain black shoes seem to be the only sort of shoe men have ever worn!

I was telling my parents of the small, but not insignificant interest the shoes had generated over a pint and this caused Dad to have a thought. My Grandpa, the original owner of the shoes, has never been one for talking of his childhood or upbringing and never discusses our family history and as an only child there's never been anyone else to tell us about it.

Just this year however, he has been opening up to my Dad and Aunt about it in detail for the first time, and they've learnt things they've never known before. Specifically about his father, my great Grandfather. We've never known much about him, but one of the few details we do know, is that he did work with shoes.

It turns out that he had his first job at Timpsons in Manchester and when he left the firm, he had a letter of reference from William Timpson himself. This was new to us! He would go on to run his own shoe shop in Trafford, which got us thinking - *The acting shoes couldn't have been made by him could they? Could they? Well why not?* -What a fantastic connection to my great grandfather of whom I know so little about it. Something he'd made, playing a part in all those plays, not to mention Mum and Dad's wedding day!

Tragically it was not to be. Grandpa was unfortunately able to confirm that they had not been made by my great Grandfather. What a shame! It had me going though! In the end I suppose that would have been just too perfect. But as Dad was keen to point out, just because he didn't manufacture them, doesn't mean he hadn't repaired them at some point. So I'm going to choose to believe that! And I'm not letting anyone tell me otherwise!

#### The 100 Club

What's in a name?. Well there could be something in it if your surname is *Robertshaw*! See below The first draw of the '100' Club took place on Saturday, 10th December 2016 the winners were as follows:-

1st prize- £25.50 -Geoff & Elaine Robertshaw

2nd prize -£20.50 - Don Ryan

3rd prize - £10.50- Ann Robertshaw

Congratulations to all our winners! Judy Rodwell

Christmas Social - 10<sup>th</sup> December 2016

*The Anniversary* barely put to bed and teetering on the brink of Christmas, we held our **Festive Fayre and Fun** evening in the bar. Krysy treated us to the fruits of her

*furtive imaginings* throughout the evening. She sang self-penned songs and gave us that female pairing of aging actresses *Tuppence and Amber* reminiscing on their heyday.

Chris Jorgenson read us a poignant poem.

We listened to an radio play which she wrote called *Murder at Mayhem Manor* with many recognisable and sometimes disguised voices playing the characters involved. The story ended with a clever social twist too.

Is there no end to her creative talent?

We then had a grand buffet served up by Geraldine and her hard working team. A very enjoyable occasion.

#### Players Youth- January 2016

I can hardly believe that Rob and I have been running Players Youth Theatre (PYT) for over a year now, although seeing the pictures of the members a year ago to date, one can certainly see changes in heights and looks!!! During the last 12 months PYT has been helped by many senior members to ensure their productions have been up to scratch and Thanks are due in particular to **Pam and Rod Lambert** who unstintingly give their all to PYT (who have christened them *Peter Pam & Hot Rod!*), all the members of the Staging team and the Technical teams which include **George Wilson, Ray Rodwell and David Ward** who spent hours with Will this year to get the lights just right for *Wind In The Willows* (WITW). Thanks to **Anne Burns** who had the bar organised to a professional standard for WITW with the help of **David Burns and Angela Dunn**. Thanks to **Margaret Williams and Nicky McGregor** who have guided the members through the difficulties of the music required for WITW-they are both keen to help the youngsters to feel more and more confident when asked to sing. **Thank you** to all those who help Pam in the dressing room for the Youth Productions, to all those who willingly help back stage and FOH, to the publicity team and ticket secretaries. **Thank you** to those members who support the young people by coming to watch them perform. We know that without you all we would not be able to produce the shows that we do. Last year PYT won 5 awards and all of Players Theatre can take pride in this success.

We have two new members joining on January 14th 2017 (our first morning back) which will take us to 20 members on stage so we shall now open a waiting list!!! (it looks like our success has certainly paid off). Our next production will be in April – not christened yet because now we have two new members I shall have to rethink!!!

At the first session on 14/1, the members will be performing, in 3 teams, a 15-minute musical which they will have written, directed and produced themselves (with no costume or props!) The mini productions will begin at 11.45am and you are very welcome to come and watch them, an audience would be great for them and encourage their endeavours.

All that remains is for me to wish you a very Happy New Year on behalf of Rob and Players Youth Theatre and hope that you will all continue to support us.



### An Honorable Mention

We have some formidable women amongst members of Players (not forgetting the Men too of course)

Once such person is Barbara Harris, to whom tribute is due.

Fresh from her tour de force as *Mum* in *The Anniversary*, she then participated in the recording made of *Murder at Mayhem* and moved seamlessly straight on to directing *The Wind in the Willows*. All the while, with the news that husband Des had serious health concerns and indeed undergoing a serious operation on the night of *Wind in the Willows* Dress Rehearsal.

### Best Wishes

Our best wishes go to Barbara Harris's husband Des who is home at the time of writing and awaiting check ups on his progress.

### Congratulations

Congratulations to Charlotte & Chris on their recent Engagement

Congratulations and Happiness to Rachel Macalpine and Will who are to tie knot this coming July.

### Musings A note of Sadness

On the subject of Artistic Genius lost to us and the world in general, 2016 sadly saw the end of much-loved comedy writers and actors such as Victoria Wood, Carla Lane, Ronnie Corbett, Caroline Aherne, Gene Wilder—followed by the demise of Robert Vaughan, Liz Smith, Rick Parfitt, George Michael, Carrie Fisher, Debbie Reynolds, Peter Vaughan, Leonard Cohen, Andrew Sachs in the month of December alone...

### Who Knew?

That Ronnie Corbett's very amusing monologues delivered in that chair were written by David Renwick who created the long-running series *Jonathan Creek*, the very funny *One Foot in the Grave*, and quirky *Love Soup* which starred Tamsin Greig and Sheridan Smith, who as we know went on to ever greater things.

### Humble Beginnings

Whilst on the subject, those who know me, know I have been a much-mocked life-long fan of the radio series *The Archers* which has gained an upsurge in popularity owing to compelling abusive relationship storyline (culminating in Helen Archer's

trial for the murder of Rob Titchener) which kept **new** listeners gripped in 2016. Tamsin Greig has recently returned to her role as *Debbie Archer* for a Christmas visit Plus Felicity Jones-very much feted for her recent films including *The Meaning of Everything* and currently playing the main role in the latest Star Wars Film actually began her life in the spotlight as a radio actress playing Brenda Tucker erstwhile girlfriend of Tom Archer in-The Archers. So henceforth- Scoff if you dare!

#### Christmas Cheer

Hope members had a Cracker of a Christmas & these make you smile!

What did the policeman say to his tummy?

*You're under a vest*

What do you call a boy with no shins?

*Tony*

Why did the golfer wear 2 pairs of trousers?

*In case he got a hole in one.*

What does a cheese say to itself when it looks in the mirror?

*Haloumi*

What cheese is made backwards? *Edam*

What type of nuts do you hang on a wall? *Walnuts*

Why did the scarecrow win the Nobel Prize?

*For being outstanding in his field*

What is Santa's favourite pizza? *One that's deep pan, crisp and even.*

Who was England's first chiropodist? *William the Corn Curer*

What do you call a woman who stands between two goalposts? *Annette*

Who hides in the bakery at Christmas? *A mince spy*

What do angry mice send each other at Christmas? *Cross Mouse Cards*

Why are Christmas trees like bad knitters? *They keep losing their needles*

What does Santa suffer from if he gets stuck in a chimney? *Claustrophobia*

#### Forthcoming Events

Imminent *Frank Skinner's Room 101* is now into its seventh series on BBC2. Players first 101 is on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> January, do come along and join in the fun. Barbara Harris and Robert Magregor have an entertaining evening in store for us.

Light Refreshments will be provided. Free of charge to members £2 to Non-Members.

NB. You are all invited to help John Carrington celebrate his birthday on this occasion too. Thanks for that John! Make it a Date 21<sup>st</sup> January -8pm in the bar.

At the Captains Table-Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> February.

Pam and Rod are also taking bookings now for our next Social Event- *At the Captain's Table* comprising A 4 course dinner. Cost £10 £12 to Non Members. Final booking date is 1<sup>st</sup> February. Call Rod to reserve your place and place your menu order before he flies off to sunnier climes.

Dress Code: Do Dress for Dinner if you would like too. It would be nice if you came in your best bib and tucker but not compulsory.

Menu Options are as below: Choose 1 of each.

Moules	ou	Assiette de Charcuterie	Starters from 1st Port of Call-France
Paella Mixta	o	Pollo con Chorizo	Main Course 2 <sup>nd</sup> Port of Call -Spain
Tiramisu	o	Gelati	Dessert from 3 <sup>rd</sup> Port of Call-Italy
Fromage		Fromaggi	Queso Cheese Platter

**Put a Spring in Your Step**

And for those who still haven't managed to put into practice that 2017 New Year's Resolution to take more exercise- Don't forget the prospect of a Spring Walk coming up on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> March.

Poynton Coppice Walk- ADVANCE NOTICE

Plenty of time to 'dust off' your walking shoes/boots/wellies in preparation for our Spring Walk being led by Ray and Judy Rodwell. More details will follow nearer the date but a walk is planned along the Middlewood Way in Poynton then taking in the canal and a woodland walk of approximately 4 miles altogether. Mostly on the flat but with one stile to negotiate and a couple of flights of steps but nothing too difficult – please do come and join us!

Two/three course set-meal afterwards at the Farmer's Arms in Poynton, (choices still to be confirmed at the time of writing as they are changing their menu) but it looks like the cost will be £14.50 for two course and £17.50 for three course. If anyone would like tea/coffee that will be an extra £1. Unfortunately dogs are not allowed in the Restaurant but they will provide a safe enclosed warm area for our 'doggie' friends to sleep after their exercise!

An e-mail will be sent out nearer the date giving final price and choice of menu – a £5 deposit is requested for each booking.

Ray & Judy Rodwell

See below for report from our last walk.

## The Happy Walkers Experience in November 2016



Most enjoyable walk and meal on Sunday 20 November 2016 up at Alderley Edge. Fabulous colours and great views. Lunch at The Wizard after with our doggies and some of us added on a trip to the Wizard Tearoom for cake and a brew. Some even managed a yummy 99 after all that! Not saying who, but.....

### Editor's Note to Readers

I would welcome any contributions to the Newsletter. Please feel free to send me yours. It helps to keep the content interesting and of course, varied. We have another year of *Players Matters* to fill and I am open to receiving anything at any time. Issues come out approximately 6 weeks apart and I am only too happy to store stuff in a special file in readiness for the next one. *Jo Moor 0161 439 9818 or email josephinemoor@gmail.com*