

# THE MARLOW PLAYERS (founded 1937)

[www.marlowplayers.org.uk](http://www.marlowplayers.org.uk)



## 8.30 p.m. 5 June 2018 - 77th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Studio, Liston Road, Marlow

**Welcome:** Andrew Stafford welcomed those present in the 81<sup>st</sup> year of The Marlow Players.

**Present:** Di Hudson, Hilary Cox, Brian Couling, Gloria Kendrick, Olive Smith, Sharon Markward, Jossy Pearce, Max Sasim, Andrew Stafford, Andy Scott, Jacky Boxall, Jennifer Major

**Apologies:** Caroline Law, Wendy Gammond, Julia Ashton

**Chairman's Report:** Andrew spoke of the great contribution to the Marlow Players of Tony Bew, who died this year. He also remembered Henri Bouthod, President for many years of Les Baladins, a great friend of The Marlow Players. He spoke of this year's two successful productions 'A Night on the Tiles' and 'Curtain up on Murder', both of which he directed and in one of which he also acted. He thanked all committee members and everyone in the Society who had contributed to the continuing success of The Marlow Players. His report is enclosed.

**Treasurer's Report:** Brian reported that both productions and the Murder Mystery Evenings had all been financial, as well as artistic, successes and that our audiences had been very enthusiastic and complimentary. But we also had large expenditure (around £3,500) on The Studio, specifically painting the outside, lighting, heating and electrics. Annual overheads have greatly increased, including insurance, the Shelley Theatre

costs (about £800 per production), performance rights (about £300), transport of set and props. and paying for theatre lighting staff.

We also made a large loss on the recent visit of Les Baladins, despite hosting the Friday evening meal ourselves in The Garden Room of Liston Hall. Our theatre audience at Bourne End Community Centre for the French production was very small (only 20+), but enthusiastic. We had £250 from Marlow Town Council to help offset the costs of the weekend, for which we thanked them, but it is always a very expensive weekend for us, albeit worthwhile in terms of our friendship with Les Baladins. (We had to withdraw from The Shelley Theatre, as the weekend clashed with the Pub in the Park rock concert, so must ensure that Les Baladins do not choose a future date with the same problem.) Payments in and out of The Players' bank account are now electronic, which is more efficient than the old system of cheques.

A statement of accounts is available from Brian.

**Election of Officers and Committee:** The current Chairman - Andrew, Treasurer - Brian, Membership Secretary - Hilary and Ordinary Members - Di, Andy and Gloria were all re-elected. Jennifer Major was elected as new committee member.

**Anderson Award:** Andrew, Gloria and Brian were nominated for the award. Andrew was chosen as this year's recipient.

**The Directors' Crew Award:** Andrew awarded this to Max for his set-building skills and his enthusiastic support backstage.

**Interval:** During the interval, when members voted for the Anderson Award, we enjoyed wine and nibbles and half-an-hour or so of socializing!

**Summer Programme:**

We are presenting a new Murder Mystery, 'Shooting Shambles at Shrapnel Castle', on 21<sup>st</sup> July at 19.30 in Liston Hall.

Rehearsals for this begin on 7<sup>th</sup> June.

Auditions for the November 2018 production, 'Local Affairs' by Richard Harris, will be held on 12<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> June.

Hilary is organizing the annual visit to Hall Barn. This year's production is 'Richard III' and we plan to go on 22 June. Tickets are £19 p.p.

Brian will arrange a canoe/picnic trip on 28<sup>th</sup> or 29<sup>th</sup> July, if possible. It will start at Henley and finish at The Two Brewers, Marlow. Cost is about £20 per head for the hire of the (Indian) canoe. We shall organise our own picnics.

Di's Strawberry tea for members and families is on 22<sup>nd</sup> July from 3-6 p.m. Those attending are asked to bring some finger food and a bottle.

We hope to organise other summer events (e.g. a picnic) for members, time permitting.

A.O.B.: Jen asked that communication with members be improved. Brian replied that he sends out an email to members and supporters with a link to the monthly Newsletter on the website. He appreciates that not everyone clicks on the link to find out what is current. We shall discuss this in committee, as communication with members and the wider public is very important.

It was suggested that we increase the cost of subs., but this was rejected. Subs. therefore remain at £20 for single membership and £35 for a couple. Gloria asked that committee be given a list of paid-up members, as she feels that we should organise 'members-only' evenings as well as those occasions when we invite families and friends.

In order to increase our revenue we shall probably have to raise ticket prices for our productions.

There is also the possibility of using Liston Hall for some productions in future, as we could arrange for a lighting rig to be set up there. It would be interesting to try out Liston Hall as a kind of 'studio theatre'.

The Studio heating is still felt to be inadequate, so committee will discuss the possibility of buying more heaters, though they are very expensive.

Andy asked if we had thought any more about getting rid of our 12' flats. Andrew thought it might be possible to convert them into screens, for use as sets for a more minimalist production. We need to tidy up the exterior of The Studio, so the committee will organise a 'weeding' day and will ask for help from members and friends. A work day usually ends with a work-party party!

THE MEETING ENDED AT 10.30 P.M.