

**HUTTON
RUBY
DRAMATIC
SOCIETY**

STAGEwrite

WINTER 2020



WELCOME

Where has the time gone? It's been a while since we last told you all the latest news and happenings within the Dramatic Society.

With our Centenary year in full swing, there are a number of events that we need to tell you about. What better way to communicate everything than by pulling all the details into a single publication for you?

Because it's been a while since our last publication, this edition will also reflect on some of the events that have taken place since our last edition.

The image on the front cover is of some members of the cast from "The Show Must Go On", the revue production that will be taking place from 14th to 16th May. More information about that can be found on page 4.

Mikey.

COMMITTEE RESIGNATION

Joe Page-Gibson has announced that he is no longer able to serve on the committee. He made the announcement via email to committee members in October. The committee expresses their deepest thanks for all the work that Joe has done whilst holding the post. A letter of thanks has been sent to Joe.

The next planned edition of StageWrite will be the Spring edition. If you have anything that you would like to be included please send it by email to huttonrudbydramaticsociety@gmail.com by Sunday 17th May.

DIARY

Committee Meeting

5th March 7.00pm
Harry's Bar

Celebration Quiz

21st March
7.30pm for 8.00pm

VE Celebrations

9th May
1.00pm to 5.00pm

Spring Revue 2020

The Show Must Go On!

14, 15, 16 May 2020
7.30pm

AGM

TBA

Neighbourhood Watch

TBA

Murder Mystery

TBA

75th Pantomime 2021

8, 9, 13, 14, 15, 16 January
2021



1920 - 2020

CELEBRATION QUIZ

SATURDAY 21st MARCH

HUTTON RUGBY VILLAGE HALL

7.30pm for 8pm start

TICKETS £5 (to include one free drink)

LICENSED
BAR

OPEN TO
MEMBERS AND
NON-MEMBERS

MAXIMUM 6
PEOPLE PER TEAM

SNACKS
PROVIDED

TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM ANNE HEPBURN

07983 700807 or 01642 701582

or email achepburn@hotmail.co.uk

GRIMM NIGHT COMPLETE SUCCESS

In September 2019 the junior members of the Dramatic Society performed A Grimm Night for Hans Christian Andersen. It told the story of a battle between Andersen and the Brothers Grimm to decide who should continue to tell stories to children.

The production was directed by David McAsey and Debbie Pearson. They were delighted with the standard of the show that the children achieved.



Auditions resulted in a lot of new members to the Society taking part. The children were well-behaved and got on well, which in turn meant that the rehearsal process was fairly stress free for the directors.

The show was well received by audiences. David and Debbie are very grateful for all the help adult members of the Society gave them, and they would like to thank everyone who did so.

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THE SHOW MUST GO ON

Rehearsals for the revue show in May have commenced. There were a large number of current members, past members, and new joiners at the registration evening that was held on Tuesday 4th February.

The production will take place on 14th, 15th and 16th May. Sketches and musical numbers are continuing to be written and refined for the show, which will be a 100th year birthday celebration of the Society.

The concept of the show is to demonstrate (in true theatrical form) how a production comes together, from the initial meeting at the AGM, through the audition and rehearsal stages, the behind the scenes work of lighting and sound and props and stage management, the costumes, publicity work and the final part - the performance itself.

Tickets will be made available to cast and crew from mid-March, with sales to the public beginning on Monday 6th April. They will be sold online via TicketSource. Volunteers to help sell tickets from the Hub would also be appreciated.

Murder Mysteries have been very successful for the Society over the years so it feels appropriate in our Centenary year to stage another.

The show has a working title of 'The Scene is Set...' and will be a classic mystery with a dramatic twist! The date of the show is to be confirmed... hopefully giving Cate and Elaine enough time to write the script!

Watch this space...

VE DAY 75th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS 9th MAY 2020

Instead of Hutton Rudby's usual village event, this year there is to be a special celebration to mark the 75th anniversary of VE Day. The Parish Council approached us to perform on this day and I feel it is important for both our Society and the village that we have a strong presence, especially in our Centenary year.

Many of the village societies and organisations have begun to plan the day which will run from 1pm to 5pm. The Hub will become the NAAFI, the village green will become a street lined with bunting and trestles tables, there will be vintage games, rides and vehicles, and at the centre of this I am going to recreate a 1945 living room for the Chapman family. This is where you come in.

Ideally, I need 8-10 performers with an age range from approximately 10 years (2 children) to 70+ years. I would like to create a 10-15 minute piece which we will run four times over the afternoon. (1.30pm, 2.30pm, 3.30pm, 4.30pm). In between "shows" I would like the Chapman family to remain in character.

There will be two well-known songs to familiarise yourselves with (*We'll Gather Lilacs* and *Don't Sit Under the Apple Tree*) and I will send these to everyone before the first rehearsal. The rest is mime, movement and choreography.

Saturday 9th May is of course the Saturday before The Show Must Go On. However, please do not let this put you off as you can do both. There will be just **5 one-hour rehearsals** (before Tuesdays' Show Must Go On rehearsals) for the VE Day performance as follows:

Tuesday 31st March	7-8pm
Tuesday 14th April	7-8pm
Tuesday 21st April	7-8pm
Tuesday 28th April	7-8pm
Tuesday 5th May	7-8pm
Saturday 9th May	Show 2pm - 5pm

If you think you would be available and like to be a member of the Chapman family, please let me know as soon as possible.

07983 700807, achepburn@hotmail.co.uk

Thank you very much

Anne.



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SLEEPING BEAUTY

It's one thing to agree to direct a pantomime but bringing that to fruition is a real team effort with as many people involved behind the scenes as there are cast on stage. We would like to thank everyone involved in Sleeping Beauty for making it such an enjoyable show and a great start to the Society's Centenary Celebrations.

Even though we are an amateur society we pride ourselves on doing things to the best of our ability, and this show was no exception. Although there was a lot of fun and laughter at rehearsals, people also worked hard in all aspects of the production – learning lines, songs and dance routines; selecting costumes; making props and scenery; preparing publicity materials – and we were delighted with the end result. By opening night we knew we had a show that was not only going to entertain our audiences but do so with well characterised performances, inspired choreography, colourful costumes, brilliant props and scenery, and above all, a cast and crew who were clearly having fun!

We'd like to give special congratulations to Lauren and Erin in their debut performances as principal boy and girl. We both remember how daunting it is to have a first principal role surrounded by so many experienced cast members, and to do so with such poise and at such a young age deserves credit – well done both of you!

We hope you will all agree that the show had many highlights, and it just so happens that we agree on our two personal favourites. The first was the magical ending to Act 1 with its haunting music, carefully crafted choreography and the gradual transition from full stage illumination to twinkling fairy lights, creating an atmosphere of magical stillness.

Then, from the sublime to the ridiculous, our second 'moment' was the way laughter rippled round the audience in dawning realisation as nuns and children, wearing costumes fashioned from the old village hall curtains, appeared on stage as the stragglers from The Sound of Music. Adult chorus developed their characters beautifully and by the time the mountains started dancing we would defy anyone in the audience not to at least have a smile on their face!

To everyone on stage, off stage, and in the audience – Thank You!

Marian and Elaine.

HAVING A BALL

It used to be part of the mechanism that made the heavy stage curtains at the village hall open and close. When the curtains were replaced, the ball was retired and turned into an award for the Dramatic Society.

Known as the Player of the Year award, it has been in existence since 1991. Past recipients are a who's who of Dramatic Society history.

The award is always presented by the directors of the pantomime production. That honour fell to Marian Bateson and Elaine Wyllie.

"It's usually quite difficult to think of the person who has made the biggest contribution to the Society over the past 12 months", commented Elaine at the final night of the pantomime production. "But this year, there was really no discussion and we knew who to award it to within 30 seconds or so".

The ball this year went to someone who first trod the boards in 1974 and since that time, has contributed to the society over a number of years in just about every possible way – front, back, side and underneath the stage, as well as being a valued committee member and officer of the society.

She was one of the most important members of the cast of 'Sleeping Beauty', although never appeared in the spotlight. She was present at all rehearsals and without her the show would most definitely not have gone on... certainly not in the way it was intended to go!

It was the easiest decision and an absolute pleasure for Marian and Elaine to award a well-deserved 'Player of the Year' to the fabulous Wendy Young.

- 1991** WIN HONEYMAN
- 1992** JILL DALBY & KATH WATTS
- 1993** GERALD RAY
- 1994** ANTHEA RICHARDSON
- 1995** JANET GRAY & SANDY MOOR
- 1996** JILL TURNER
- 1997** ARTHUR LISLE
- 1998** MARY TARRAN
- 1999** JOY BARTHAM & SARAH BARNETT
- 2000** EMMA RICHARDSON
- 2001** SIMON BATESON
- 2002** DAVID LOWTHER
- 2003** LYNDA McPHIE
- 2004** MARIAN JOHNSON
- 2005** JOHN AUTHERSON
- 2006** SUSAN HENDERSON
- 2007** ROBIN HEPBURN
- 2008** JANET FAWCETT
- 2009** DAN BROOKES
- 2010** ELAINE WYLLIE
- 2011** DENISE ROBERTSON
- 2012** CHRISTINE KENDREW
- 2013** HOLLY HENDERSON
- 2014** CATE TITTERTON
- 2015** JOHN WALLIS
- 2016** THE WARDROBE TEAM
- 2017** DEBBIE KRAGNES
- 2018** ROBIN HEPBURN
- 2019** MIKEY BEARD
- 2020** WENDY YOUNG

FROM THE ARCHIVES



The first production that the Dramatic Society ever performed was back in 1920. It was an operetta called *The Dogs of Devon*.

Hutton Rudby Choral and Dramatic Society, as it was named at that time, was well supported by some very influential people with good connections and heritage. Performances took place in the old school house. We will cover that period of history in our next edition, thanks to Malcolm McPhie who has documented and maintained a growing archive of the Dramatic Society.

The photographs above and to the right have recently been uncovered and submitted for inclusion in the archive. They feature Marge and John Wrightson, who participated in the production of *Dogs of Devon* and other shows.

The top two photographs are from “*Princess Ida*” in 1931. The bottom photo opposite is from “*Iolanthe*” in 1934.

I am sure it is fair to say that we are a very fortunate Society to have such a large and extensive archive of our entire history. We all owe our thanks to our founding president, Walter “Watty” Johnson, for creating the Society in the first place. And we owe thanks to all the people who have performed and documented all of the productions that have taken place over the past one hundred years.



CELEBRATION QUIZ

As part of the Centenary year of celebrations, the Dramatic Society will be holding a Quiz Night on Saturday 21st March. The aim is to provide an enjoyable evening whilst raising a decent amount for the Society; although profit is not the driving force.

Teams will consist of six people. This maximum should ensure that everyone can have their say. Each team captain will have the final say on which answer is submitted and will record such answers on sheets which will be handed in at the end of each round.

The aim is 20 questions per round – the proposed topics for each round are Am Dram history; Sport; History; Music; Pot Luck; Events of a recent year; Science; Geography. There will also be a picture round. It is possible that we won't get through all 8 rounds but it's best to have

too much planned than too little! Prizes will be bottles of wine and boxes of chocolates for the first 2 or 3 teams.

As you can imagine we'll need some volunteers to manage the bar and hand out the half time refreshments. We've already received offers of help from some members of the Society, for which we are very grateful. If anyone else is able to assist please do let us know.

Helping out can be combined with being in a team, although those who are marking and totting up the scores will need to remain neutral and available to help the quiz progress smoothly. If you have any further suggestions to help the quiz evening flow please let Barry Holley or Anne Hepburn know.

You can contact them through the Dramatic Society email address.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

At the committee meeting held in October, Simon Bateson proposed that the Society add an additional event to the schedule for the Centenary year. His offer to direct Alan Ayckbourn's comedy play 'Neighbourhood Watch' was agreed.

The dates for the show and the rehearsal period are yet to be confirmed. As soon as we have any more information on this show we will let you know.

