

Secretary's Report - Steve Leadbetter

I feel a sense of History. I am undoubtedly the first Honorary Secretary since 1946 to write a report for the AGM during a pandemic. The fact that the AGM will be conducted by ZOOM and that all the annual reports are available to members on the website for the first time is also momentous. However, I like many other members, am feeling a sense of frustration that we can't provide the village with the entertainment they've become so used to for the last 75 years. However, I do believe our planned February 2021 production will be well supported. I am very keen to work with the council and rest of the Committee to establish protocols that will no doubt become clearer as professional theatre emerges from the carnage.

We have produced two very exciting and well attended plays since the last AGM. The words of the Bard in "Shakespeare in Love" spring to mind when I think of my own contribution to these excellent productions: Two "small, but vital roles" gave me much pleasure, but more to the point, I would like to pay tribute to the people who do the real work for all our plays, namely the Directors and the backstage crew as well as all those who dutifully man the bar and Front of House. It was also brilliant to see so many new members on stage. Please stay with us!

Our social media links continue to run smoothly and professionally. Many thanks are due to Sarah Brindley and Sara Payne for this. Thanks are also due to Len Skilton, Robert Naylor-Stables and Jill Collis who have been keeping a keen eye on the plans for the Memorial Hall extension/refurbishment. They have made a number of points to the District Council and Robert, as an architect himself, continues to give us very useful & mindful insights into the planning process. Covid-19, of course, has put everything in abeyance.

Thanks are also due to Robert for his hard work in leading and coordinating another Workshop clearance. Another initiative that worked successfully was our decision to replace the 'Christmas Dinner' with an 'Annual Dinner' at the end of January. Organisers were being clobbered with high prices, coupled with the difficulty of getting mutually agreeable dates, so our foray to the Wicked Lady

in January will be repeated. We will chose another venue of course. Who knows, it could be the WDS's first social event back in the quest for normality!

If Faith Healer is to go ahead in February 2021, our Director, Cast and Crew will need to be comfortable with our rehearsal provisions. Clearly, the Committee will be discussing this issue in future virtual meetings. We are one down on the Committee at the moment, so we are expecting/hoping for some new nominations during this AGM process. Watch out for further developments in the next newsletter.