

## 1. Presidential Address - Graham Field

Welcome to the 2021 Annual General Meeting of Wheathampstead Dramatic Society , our second - and hopefully last- to be conducted via Zoom .

It is 75 years since the Society was formed , the first play being staged a few months later in 1947 , so the coming 12 months marks a special anniversary.

The past year has been one of disappointment and sadness on the one hand and recognition and enterprise on the other. Disappointment that the Covid restrictions prevented any productions from reaching the stage ; and particular sadness in learning of the passing of Pat Hughes , a stalwart member of the Society, in April. Recognition through the NODA awards of Best Actress in a Drama to Georgina Lilley and Most Chilling Performance to Jonathan Field - both in the previous year's production of 'Wait until Dark ' - to them our congratulations ; and at the same time terrific enterprise has been displayed on the part of so many in the Society ensuring that the year has been one full of activities and the newsletters packed with articles and details of our events - a Quiz Night, Play readings, the barbecue, 'Poems & Pints' evenings and even the launch of a play writing competition - alongside the continuing work of the Play Selection Committee.

Before I hand over to my colleagues for the detailed Reports I'd like to congratulate the Committee on behalf of everyone for coping so well and valiantly with the difficulties and vicissitudes of the past year. Thank you for all your hard work and ideas.