

## Chairman's speech

Sadly this is my first report as Chairman of the Society where I can only wax lyrical about two of our plays. The Railway Children, as we all know has been moved to May 2021. I suppose I had better get used to it, as we have already cancelled our October production, Shirley Valentine, and moved it to 2021 also. I will mention the dreaded COVID bug but once in this speech as I spend all my working hours dealing with it. Suffice to say we will get through to the other side and when we do, I anticipate a burning desire in the Wheathampstead Dramatic Society to make our productions as brilliant as they have always been - Even more so!

Our October offering, 'Wait Until Dark' saw a very promising debut performance from Sally Davis as Director. The thrilling end, superbly acted by Jonathan Field and one of our very welcome newcomers, Georgina Lilley, was in no way compromised by the 'keystone cops' Jan & Malcolm together with frantic husband, Steve, being unable to get through the jammed door on the first night! It was also great to see another new female member making her debut, namely Emma Rouse, who had already impressed the great and the good of Wheathampstead starring in "At Home with the Garrards" in St Helen's Church.

Our February production, Agatha Christie's 'Love from a Stranger' gave Director, Robin Langer lots of potential to work his magic on the Marford Hall stage. Two excellent lead role performances from Damon Ferguson and Lisa Fitzgerald, ably assisted by a very strong support cast gave us another critically acclaimed and very profitable success.

I would like to conclude by thanking the committee for their support and hard work. They continue to do a great job

supporting the Society and giving excellent service with a smile and good nature.

The sad tale that is our social calendar has been saved this year by a spirited “Poems and Pints” night on ZOOM. Many thanks and well done to Robert Naylor-Stables for organising this. The litany of disaster continues with the closure of the “Elephant and Castle” pub, thereby possibly ending a five year tradition of start of season BBQ’s in this great location. There are rumours, however, that it has been taken over by new owners. Never fear, the WDS Committee will prevail, we will give serious thought to a new venue if necessary, for the Summer of 2021. We are also looking to organise a ZOOM based Play Reading, so keep your eye on the newsletter. Well done Len, for continuing to provide this much welcome regular lifeline for all the Society.

In the words of Vera Lynn....