

Lympstone Players' NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2025

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Our Mission:
To entertain local audiences with a variety of quality theatrical productions
by sharing our skills, passions and knowledge and working together
in a friendly, supportive and fun environment

Our Core Values:
Respect – Integrity – Community - Excellence

Puss in Boots - production update

All the parts have been cast and the script has been handed out for our December production of *Puss in Boots* (in the village hall on the evenings of Thursday 4 to Saturday 6 December, including a matinee on the Saturday). Everybody is raring to go, with rehearsals kicking off in the first week of September.



If you'd like to get involved with the production in any way, whether backstage, front-of-house, or helping with the music, please do get in touch: lympstoneplayers@gmail.com. In particular, we are still looking for a prompt – please let us know if you think you could help.

Play-Reading Group

Our Play-Reading Group is taking a break over the summer, but will resume in September. The once-monthly readings are held on a Sunday afternoon in the homes of different members starting at 2.30 and finishing around 5.00 to 5.30. These play readings are not only very enjoyable social occasions but provide an excellent opportunity to engage with play scripts without the pressure of performance on stage. If you would like to get notifications about the play readings and want to take part as a reader or as part of the audience please contact Clive Wilson at clivewilson264@gmail.com

An English Country Garden Party

On Sunday, 20 July members of the Lympstone Players began to assemble in the lovely garden of Grace Packman and Tim Gibson. We each came clutching an umbrella as well as a sunhat, something tasty to share; food for the mind and food for the body...

The double act of Andrew and Sophie Minter opened the entertainment with Vaughan Williams' *Linden Lea*, beautifully sung. However, the heavens soon opened.

Tim and Grace shepherded us into their home where the entertainment continued with a rich variety of poems and stories. Heather Redding gave us a totally engaging piece from the end of *Possession* by A. S. Byatt, and Nigel Goodwin recited two poems from memory with his inimitable flourish and stage presence. Harland Walshaw took us back to the garden of Eden as glimpsed through Milton's lens, while the most humorous contribution came from Pat Boaden with a deliciously flirtatious poem by Pam Ayres. What contrasts there were and what fun! Warmest thanks to all those who brought tasty things to eat and such entertaining and thought-provoking literary contributions to the party.



Sharon Wayland and Judy Day then presented a cheque to the Sam Banks Memorial Fund, a donation from the proceeds of last December's production 'A Night of Crime', which Louise Banks received with grateful thanks. We were all sorry that Graham Banks had been defeated by the heavy rain and missed our party and this presentation.

Thanks to Grace and Tim for hosting

such a fascinating and happy occasion. Their lovely, light conservatory meant that we continued to enjoy the colourful flowers of the garden.

Mary Burman

Set design and scene painting workshops

I was recently one of the participants lucky enough to take part in the first of four set design and scene painting workshop training sessions led by our local expert and theatre professional Debs Mitchell. We were guided through the materials,

procedures and techniques needed to prepare and paint back-drops and flats. This was especially useful for those of facing the challenging task of painting the scenery for our next Players production, *Puss-in-Boots*.



The scene at one of the set design workshops, with Debs Mitchell on the right.

Presenting her extensive portfolio, we were treated to Debs involvement over many years, in this often overlooked but important area when producing a play. We were amazed!

Our brains were then tested when required to 'scale up' from A4 sized paper to transfer our images to rather larger canvases - 4 x 4.5 metres! With a little help from each other, we had a lot of fun trying. In fact, the whole session was good fun and, when we left we not only felt that we had had a really good time, we felt equipped and in possession of some of the technical knowledge and skills which will help us in the future.

We now look forward to working together as a team on our challenging new project. If, in the future, you have the opportunity to participate in a Players workshop, do give it a go - you may be surprised to find that you have a hidden skill that you never knew about.

Judy Stutchbury

Contact us

Do let us know if you have ideas for future workshops or social activities. Should you wish to contact your committee on these or any other matters, please email us at: lympstoneplayers@gmail.com. We review the inbox regularly.