

Morden Players Matters

June 2014 (2 pages)

AGM

The AGM took place on Friday 9 May. Before the formal part of the evening began, we were delighted to welcome two representatives from Home-Start, Royston. Linda Smith, Chair of the Fundraising and Events Group and Barry Fennings, a member of the Fundraising Group. A cheque for £500 was presented to the charity, being proceeds from the pantomime, Red Riding Hoodie. Home-Start provides a home visiting service, a family support group and helps families link with other local services and resources. Based in Meldreth the branch has about 30 volunteers and it costs in the region of £1,500 a year to support one family. So our contribution was gratefully received.

It is customary for the President to choose a recipient for the President's Cup and hand out the award at the AGM. Sadly, Bob Gilbert was no longer with us to carry out this task and there is no recipient this year. The other award that is made to a junior member at this time is the Hunter Memorial Shield and we are delighted to announce that Saul Bailey was chosen as recipient for his lively and entertaining portrayal of 'Wolf, Big Bad' in Red Riding Hoodie. Congratulations Saul.

In memory of Bob and in recognition of all that he did for The Morden Players, it was agreed at the AGM that the President's Cup would be known in future as The Founder's Cup.

Your New Committee

Chair:	Mike Capay
Vice Chair:	Mark Crankshaw
Treasurer:	Richard Buchta
Secretary & Membership Secretary:	Hazel Smith
Committee members:	Jerry Lancaster
	Laura Smith
	Frank Thorp
	Pippa Vaughan

The outgoing Chairman and committee members were thanked for all their hard work during the year. We all wished Ivan and MT Cherasse the very best for their move to the south coast and their huge contribution towards the Players over many years. They will be greatly missed.

Membership Fees Now Due

Membership fees remain the same as last year:

Adult member:	£ 7.00
Family member:	£13.00
Junior member (under 18):	£ 3.00

Renewals are now due and if you pay up before **15 July 2014** you can take advantage of the following reduced rates:

Adult member:	£ 6.00
Family member:	£12.00
Junior member (under 18):	£ 2.00

Please complete the attached form and send it with your fee to the Membership Secretary, Hazel Smith or any other member of the committee.

Future Productions

Your new committee already has a few ideas in the pipeline so watch out for further details in future newsletters. In the meantime, let us know what you would like to be involved in. Straight plays, Shakespeare, farces, pantomimes, musicals....? Email Pippa Vaughan on pippav@btinternet.com

Workshops

Following the success of recent technical workshops, we are considering running other similar events but we would like to hear your thoughts. What would you be interested in? Lighting, Sound, Acting, Musical Theatre, Young Players workshop. Email your ideas to Jerry Lancaster on ironsides1721@yahoo.co.uk

Summer BBQ

A summer BBQ is planned for August. More next time on date and venue.

Obituary: Bob Gilbert

Founder and President of the Morden Players

Just over a year ago we included an Obituary for Margaret Gilbert in the Newsletter and now it is with great sadness that we write about Bob under the same heading.

Bob first appeared in Steeple Morden about 32 years ago. He had met Margaret through a dating advert and came courting on his motorbike. Bob asked her to go to Germany and after some careful consideration, Margaret decided to go. The rest is history. Bob's enthusiasm for amateur dramatics took off when he and Margaret joined the St Neots Drama Group. They then caught the bug and went on to start their own drama group and The Morden Players was born.

His first production was 'On Monday Next' in 1985 and Bob brought the play back to the stage, along with several members of the original cast, to celebrate the Players' 25th Anniversary in 2010. In between he was always involved in some way whether acting, directing, getting publicity in the local press and on local radio or being a member of the audience with Margaret at his side.

Bob was, however, a man of many parts, (and a constant cigarette). He was a member of CAMRA and attended many beer festivals throughout the country and also a few on the continent.

He had his little quirks, (that a lot of people could not understand). He wanted us out of the E.U. although he liked being there himself, and he always kept his watch on GMT, feeling that we should all do the same at all times.

During his time in the village he has served on the Parish Council and we believe at one time he was on the Village Hall committee. For a long time he was a volunteer driver for the driver scheme based in Royston ferrying people back and forth to hospital and before he came to the Steeple Morden he was involved in Hospital Radio broadcasts.

Sadly Margaret was diagnosed with Emphysema and as the disease took hold and reduced what she could do, Bob became her full time carer along with all his other activities.

Two weeks before his stroke Bob drove himself to Holland to attend a wedding and the Bride and her parents (who knew Bob long before we met him) flew over to the UK for the funeral returning later the same day.

Bob will be missed by us all but he and Margaret are reunited now. Perhaps they are busy setting up another Amateur Dramatic Group. Will the first production be 'On Monday Next'?

