



President ~ Sir Derek Jacobi

## Newsletter—May 2024

### ~~~~~ **SPECIAL EDITION!** ~~~~~

**Hello Marlborough members and friends**—we have a bumper edition of the newsletter this time, packed with lots of updates and photographs of our recent events. We have had a busy start to 2024 and it feels like we are back to our pre-Covid normal! We also have some dates for your diary: our afternoon tea and another full production this Autumn! Read on for the news...

#### **SAD NEWS: Pat Staley, Club VP, has passed away**

It is with great sadness that we report the death of beloved Club member Patricia Staley, who died in February 2024. She was a member of the Marlborough for many years, acting, directing, on the committee, as well as a Vice President latterly. A very well attended funeral was held in early April and the family have set up a Just Giving page in her memory - with donations very kindly requested for the Marlborough. We are truly honoured. Please donate via:

<https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/PatriciaStaley>

"Grandma was a member for 40 years and enjoyed the company of her many friends there. Acting and directing was a huge part of her life and we hope the society continues for many years to come" - Phoebe Milham



**Patricia Staley**



#### **The 120th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION**

As mentioned in our previous newsletter, the Marlborough has turned 120 years old in 2024 and so we arranged a dinner at the local Banqueting Suite to mark this milestone. On 15 March we raised a glass to the Club and enjoyed a delicious dinner before Chairman William Wells gave a short speech about the Club's past and planned future activities. It was lovely to see some old friends as well as some new faces too. Thank you to

everyone who came along. There is an article about the first 100 years of the Club's history on our website—under the 'about' menu.

*Photos by Juliette Bird*



**Turn over for a review of our Spring Production – the first full play since Autumn 2019!**





## **REVIEW: the Spring Production of Richard Harris' 'Visiting Hour'**

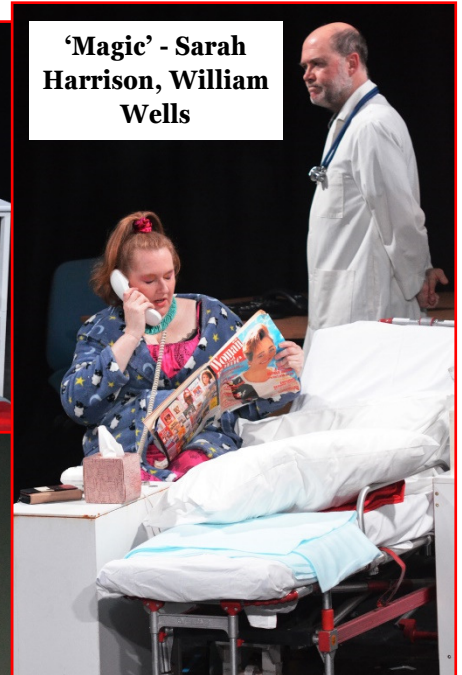
We were absolutely delighted to welcome theatre-goers back into the Memorial Hall at Brentwood School in mid-April for the Marlborough's first production since before the pandemic. 'Visiting Hour' was set in a NHS hospital in the 1980s and comprised five playlets performed in a hospital ward. Some funny and some moving, we aimed to elicit a range of emotions from the audience. We were lucky to bring to the stage some fantastic actors new to the Club as well as a few favourite returning thespians. All our actors doubled or tripled up on parts across the playlets—quite a challenge to portray different characters one after the other! The Marlborough would like to thank all those involved, including our dedicated director June Fitzgerald, and you can find out more about all that went on by reading the article on our website titled 'VISITING HOUR—a look back at our Spring 2024 production'.



**'Magic' - Roy Hobson, Juliette Bird, Hilary Andrews**



**'Magic' - James Biddles, Elaine Laight**



**'Magic' - Sarah Harrison, William Wells**



**'Keeping Mum' - Julia Stallard**

*Photos by Emily Heywood*



**'Plaster' - Sarah Harrison, Roy Hobson**



**'Going Home' - Hilary Andrews, Elaine Laight, Sarah Harrison**



**'Showbusiness' - Steve Bearpark, Elaine Laight, James Biddles, Sarah Harrison, Juliette Bird**

**Continue to the next page for more news in this special edition of our newsletter!**



## **Welcome to new members!**

The Club is delighted to welcome a number of new and returning members this year. Hello to the **Hydes, Natalie B, Julia S, Hilary A, Katie M, Roy H, James B, Elaine L, Sarah H and Michael J**. Full membership of the Club includes one ticket per member to each of our two annual productions and costs £25 for an individual or £45 for two at the same address. With ticket prices for our plays at least £14.50, full membership provides a saving when attending our shows. Subscription membership is £5 and gets you first access to Club news, but does not include show tickets.



## **BOOK NOW for our annual AFTERNOON TEA—22 June 2024**

A yearly tradition for many years, we would like to invite members and friends to our next Afternoon Tea, being held on 22 June 2024, **3:30-5:30pm** at **Shenfield Parish Hall**, Gwendolyn Lewis Room, CM15 8LB. You can find the booking form on our website homepage, but you can also book a space by calling Harry Morrison on 07746 915348. Tickets cost **£10** each and different dietary requirements can be accommodated. Please **book your spaces by 8 June**. Read on for information about a special event to be held during the Afternoon Tea...

## **LAUNCH of the Janet Cass Cup at the Afternoon Tea**

In 2022 we lost dear Club member—Janet Cass (see newsletter 10, September 2022). We learned recently that Janet kindly donated to the Marlborough in her will. The committee has decided to honour part of this legacy by launching the Janet Cass Cup which will be **awarded annually to a member who has provided outstanding service to the Club over the previous year**. In year one, the committee-only will vote and the **winner will be announced at the Afternoon Tea**. In subsequent years, voting criteria will be refined and there will be more news in due course regarding how you can become involved.



## **AUTUMN PRODUCTION**

### **Dates for your diary**

We will be returning to the Memorial Hall at Brentwood School, **24-26 October 2024**, where we will be producing our next full production of **Alan Ayckbourn's 'Ten Times Table'** - a comedy about a village committee of diverse characters who try to organise a pageant to commemorate a historical event. Block your calendars for this show which marks the return of director Graham Poulteney to the Marlborough.



## **Contact us:**

**Either, [Secretary@marlboroughdramaticclub.uk](mailto:Secretary@marlboroughdramaticclub.uk) / 07746 915348**

**Or, Juliette Bird, 07759 078995 (Newsletter)**

**Visit our website: [www.marlboroughdramaticclub.uk](http://www.marlboroughdramaticclub.uk)**

**Contacting you:** *If you received this newsletter by post and would prefer to receive it by email (or vice versa) or would prefer not to receive it at all – please let us know using the contact details above.*