

# Stage Whispers

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[www.horsleyamdram.org](http://www.horsleyamdram.org)



## EDITORIAL

I do hope you are all well and are coping with yet another lockdown, however unlike the first lockdown, where the weather was kind in the spring/summer when we could get outside & do all those gardening or DIY jobs, this time with Autumn/Winter in prospect, life is not so rosy! Covid has played havoc with the Whips & Whippet plans for the year, however life goes on and hopefully vaccine dependant we can reorganise events for 2021.



## Message from WHIPS Chairman

### Message from WHIPS Chairman regarding AGM for 2019 to 2020

All; I hope you and your families are well and coping in these difficult times.

Given recent announcements and lockdown until at least the 2<sup>nd</sup> December it seems extremely unlikely that the WHIPS, along with other amateur theatre groups, will be able to stage any meaningful productions until well into 2021. That said I think it important that we close off the formal business of the AGM for the year 2019 to March 2020.

Not surprisingly our constitution gives no guidance on this situation so I propose the following pragmatic solution. To involve the membership, the Committee will send out the usual reports and accounts and then invite the membership to join a short Zoom session hosted by the Committee early in December and with an invitation to send in written questions to be answered at the meeting or subsequently. We will also solicit new Committee members and confirm that the existing Committee members are willing to continue. The reports and date of the meeting will be notified later this month once arrangements have been made.

Regrettably we will have to forego the usual award ceremony and liquid refreshments but I am sure we will be able to come up with an acceptable celebration once regulations permit.

Please do get in touch if you have questions or would like to join the Committee and don't forget our on-line play-readings held every two weeks.

Best Wishes

Colin Bailey  
WHIPS Chairman



## PLAYREADINGS.... **zoom** online

Due to the wretched Covid 19 virus the regular monthly playreadings are currently halted, however A few of the regular Whips have been trying an online playreading via Zoom which have proven to be fairly popular. Chris Cathles, Colin & Jack have organised the last few sessions and if you are Interested in taking part we meet online at 8PM every other Thursdays and need your email details to invite you to be included.

Colin is organising the next session on Thurs 12<sup>th</sup> Nov at 8 prompt with an online script. Please contact Colin if you wish to be included in the next session

I have to say though, the old physical versions were much nicer as the wine & cakes tasted infinitely better! Requests to meet at the Billy had no responses from members or Mark the publican so we can either carry on with scripts that Chris can obtain off the web or get real performing arts library scripts pending government regulations .Please get in touch if you're interested.



# SOO & KEVIN TOMKINS MOVING!



Soo writes:-

With Stuart finally flying the nest & living in Guildford, Kevin and I decided to make our move to "the country". It's something we always planned to do; sell up in expensive Surrey and buy somewhere beautiful in Devon so that we can take an earlier retirement.

Originally we were looking at future-proof bungalows but quickly realised we were not bungalow people. When we viewed Rose Cottage in Knowstone, Near Exmoor, we fell in love, what's not to like about a thatched cottage almost next door to a Michelin star

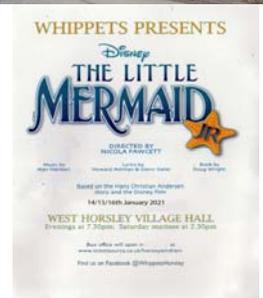
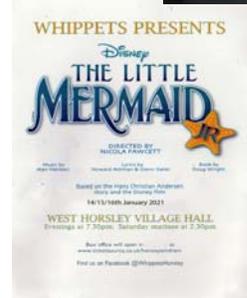
pub! Although we are a bit nervous about taking on a 300 year old Grade 2 listed building, we are very excited to move as soon as Covid and Solicitors allow. It goes without saying that our Whippets friends would always be welcome to visit, but you might want to wait until we've got the heating sorted! Once we have a moving date we'll pass on our new address and look forward to seeing you.



## Whippets/Whips Youth Update

We are looking forward to getting Whippets and Whips Youth started

Resumes once distancing restrictions have been greatly reduced.



### Whippets/Whips Youth Update

#### Little mermaid

Whippets' production of Disney's The Little Mermaid Jr. has now been pushed back to 2021. We really hope that restrictions will have sufficiently lifted by then so you can all enjoy this colourful, joyous musical. Our cast, costumes and sets were absolutely wonderful this year and the fabulous Academy award-winning score will have you humming show tunes long after you leave the hall.



### Whippets thanks the NHS

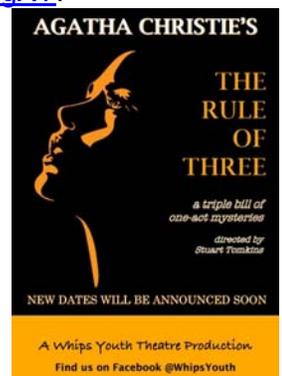


At the start of lockdown Whippets produced a short music video to thank NHS staff and key workers. With the wonders of technology the children created a virtual choir at home to accompany their wonderful photo messages. To watch their video please click here <https://youtu.be/xeuRUXYHgXY>.

### Whips youth

Whips Youth's production of Agatha Christie's, The Rule of Three, which was originally scheduled for July, is now on hold, but 'the show will go on' so watch this space for updates. Whips Youth (ages 13-18) meets on Tuesday evenings at West Horsley Village Hall. If you would like to join us after lockdown please contact [juliamcclung@btinternet.com](mailto:juliamcclung@btinternet.com) for details.

Facebook For regular updates please like our Facebook pages at @WhippetsHorsley and @WhipsYouth.





**PETER ELLISSON**

Sad news that old time member, Peter Ellison husband of Pam Ellison died after a long illness in October in Devon.

Peter was active in the Whips mainly in the 1980's as our main sound & Lighting man ( just before Charles Hope). Peter, always cheerful and helpful coerced by our prompt/booking lady, wife Pam ( the prompt who once fell asleep during a performance with her leg extending on stage!). Both lived in Grove Heath North, Ripley and subsequently moved to Devon about 15-20 years ago. We heard the sad news from Jeanne Nightingale wife of Nigel, our scenery building guru.

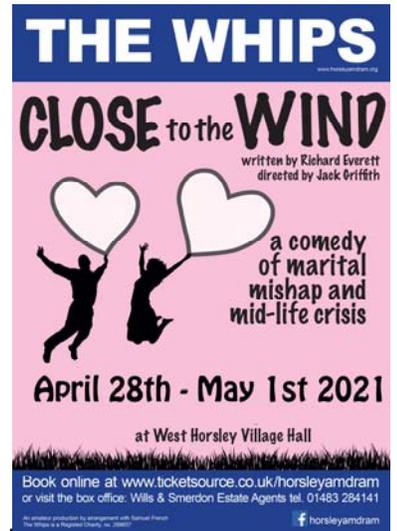
The funeral will not be for some weeks because of waiting lists but will probably be subject to restricted numbers, as is now the norm.

Fran had to scan through loads of Anthea Wrights' Old photo's to find this of Peter with the cast of Present Laughter in May 1981



**PROPOSED SPRING 2021 PRODUCTION**

The Whips 2020 spring production, Close to the Wind was well into Rehearsals at 'books down' stage (at least act1) in early March when 'Lockdown' occurred which was a great shame as it was going well and proving to be very funny, so it has been decided to defer the play until late April next year depending of course if the original cast can Commit to that date, new rehearsals starting in Feb 2021, Covid dependant!



**BILLY BASH**

I really doubt if this years 'Bill Bash' on Dec 17<sup>th</sup> at the King William IV pub will take place, but Mark the landlord has furnished us with his Christmas menu just in case!



**King William IV**  
**Christmas Party Menu 2020**  
 2 Courses £19.50 ⇄ 3 Courses £24.50

⇄ Starters ⇄

- Homemade Celeriac & Apple Soup (V)**  
 With Stilton Crouton, Crusty Baguette & Salted Butter
- Crab & Avocado Tower**  
 With Beetroot & Thyme Jus & Multi-Seed Bread
- Duck Paté**  
 With Brandy Cranberry Salsa & Toast
- Roasted Vegetable Tien**  
 With Parsley & Garlic Dressing



⇄ Mains ⇄

- Succulent Roast Turkey & Honey Roasted Ham**  
 With Chef's Chestnut & Forcemeat Stuffing & Pig In Blankets
- Slow Roasted Sirloin Of Beef**  
 With Yorkshire Pudding
- The Above Served With Roasted Goose Fat Potatoes,  
 Honey Roasted Parsnips & Carrots, Brussel Sprouts & Swede Mash*
- Oven Baked Cod**  
 On Creamed Bacon Cabbage With Crushed New Potatoes
- Artichoke & Winter Vegetable Tart In Puff Pastry (V)**  
 With New Potatoes Drizzled With A Salt & Pepper Olive



⇄ Puddings ⇄

- Christmas Pudding Cheesecake**  
 With Brandy Cream
- Melon Ball Medley**  
 With Raspberries
- Warm Chocolate Fondant**  
 With Vanilla Ice Cream & Chocolate Sauce
- Cheese Plate**  
 With Homemade Chutney, Grapes, Celery & Biscuits

tel: 01483 282318 email: info@kingwilliam4th.com

V - Vegetarian ⇄ Gluten Free & Vegan Available Upon Request  
 10% service charge goes directly to staff ⇄ Bookings require a pre-order & deposit of 20%



## CONTACTS

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## MEERKAT NOTES

None as the committee haven't met again yet!

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

17<sup>th</sup> Dec 2020 Whips 'Billy Bash' (doubtful)  
2021  
TBA 'Little Mermaid' Whippets Production  
AGM - TBA  
27<sup>th</sup> Feb Whips Quiz night?  
28 April – 1<sup>st</sup> May Autumn Production?



## AND FINALLY

Murphy applied for a fork lift operator post at a famous Irish firm based in Dublin.

A Norwegian applied for the same job and since both applicants had similar qualifications, they were asked to take a test and led to a quiet room with no interruptions by the Manager.

When the results were in, both men had scored 19 out of 20.

The manager went to Murphy and said, "Thank you for coming to the interview, but we've decided to give the Norwegian the job."

Murphy,... "And why would you be doing that? We both got 19 questions correct. This being Ireland and me being Irish surely I should get the job."

Manager, "We have made our decision not on the correct answers, but on the question you got wrong."

Murphy, "And just how would one incorrect answer be better than another?"

Manager "Simple; on question number 7 the Norwegian wrote down,

'I don't know.'

You put down, 'Neither do I.' "



This has been a 'get it out slowly just in case something actually happened!' production

