



**ST ALBAN'S
PLAYERS** SINCE
1973



GREASEPAINT!

August 2025

AGM News

Our AGM was held on Thursday 17th July. An overview of the events and successes of the past year was given, as well news of upcoming productions and events. The committee for 2025-26 was elected.

New Committee

Chair: Sandra Tomkins

Vice-chair: Miranda Pinder

Treasurer: Angela Morgan

Secretary: Barbara Crass

General members: Sally Jones, Tim Vousden-White, Sarah Simpson-Down, Neil Jacobs, David Williams, Fiona Morrison

Charities

There were 3 nominated charities: RNLI (in memory of Charlie's father, David Whitehead), Children of Kigezi and Refugee Women of Bristol. The room was ultimately split between 2 charities (RNLI and Children of Kigezi) and moved to support both in some way. We voted on 3 models to do this:

- 1) Split both charities 50/50 this year
- 2) Support one charity this year (25/26) and the other (26/27)
- 3) This year: Support Children of Kigezi through fundraising activities and donate to the RNLI from SAP funds, to be decided by the committee.

It was a closely decided vote which ended in the favour of option 3. The committee has agreed to donate £250 to RNLI. Members and friends are also invited to donate independently via the Just Giving link:

<https://www.justgiving.com/page/davewhitehead>



The Bridge Foundation, our charity for 2024-25, have sent us a lovely card acknowledging our donation of £1600.37 to this worthwhile cause.

David Whitehead Memorial

On Saturday 26th July, the very full life of David Whitehead was appropriately and beautifully celebrated on the SS Great Britain with many loving family and friends. David was, among many other important things, a loyal friend to St Alban's Players and will be very much missed.

Autumn Production: *Way Upstream* 27th-29th November

We are delighted to announce that our Autumn production will be *Way Upstream* by Alan Ayckbourn, directed by Sally Jones. This hilarious play brings a whole new meaning to the phrase “messaging about in boats”! Please see the emails from Sally regarding audition dates and pieces.

As ever, we are looking for a crack production crew to rig up the set, haul the ropes and set the production afloat! (No apologies for the boatload of puns – I’m merely following in Sally’s wake!). Seriously, it’s more than ever a case of “all hands on deck” (that one *is* Sally’s), so, if you haven’t done so already, come aboard! Please reply to Sally’s email, letting her know how you would like to be involved: Sallyannjones352@gmail.com



Hello from our new Chair!

I am both excited and humbled about being the new Chair of St Alban’s players. Thank you for your faith in me which I will strive to live up to. Charlie’s boots are big to fill and I’m sure those who were not able to join us at the AGM will add their thanks for his steady navigation out of the COVID period and into the strong position we are in now. No Chair is complete without a supportive committee which this year comprises SAP stalwarts and relatively new members. From my point of view, this is a perfect mix to take us forward whilst respecting the original values of the club. Together we will challenge ourselves to be inclusive, transparent and look for creative ways to put St Albans Players on the map.

Sandra T

Committee Meeting: Agenda for July’s meeting. We discussed:

1. Welcome to the new committee
2. Agree future meeting dates
3. Roles and how we will cover business
4. Items from the AGM (draft minutes attached):
 - a. Raise subscriptions (currently £35 / £15)
 - b. Correction of allocation of expenses to SHTR / SAP budget.
 - c. Christmas show



Charity support

- Thanks from The Bridge Foundation
- Children of Kigezi
- SAP donation to RNLI (plus invitation for general members to donate in David Whitehead’s memory)

November production

- Key dates (auditions, set-building, technical and production)
- Thoughts from playreading

Request from church to restore the stage flooring after Stepping Out

Greasepaint

AoB

If you would like something to be discussed in our next meeting, please email: stalbanplayers2024@gmail.com

Memories of Tony Browning

Last week a small group of long-standing members bid a fond farewell to Tony Browning, sharing memories and photographs of productions he was involved with throughout the 1970's and 1980's. We reminisced about his valuable input to the Players during that time. At the grand old age of 99, a long life was fondly remembered by all.

Wake up, Father Christmas! 6th OR 13th December (Date TBC)

This lovely little show had its first outing a couple of years ago – and Father Christmas has fallen asleep again! We need to wake him up this year and are looking for anyone interested in directing, acting or helping out with this show for our community's smaller members. We intend to use Debbie's fabulous script again, and will bring back the set we used before. If you would like to be involved in this crowd-pleaser, please email: stalbanplayers2024@gmail.com, or get in touch with any member of committee.



Hoodies and T-Shirts!

Have you got yours yet?! We have a few hoodies and T-shirts of various sizes left for immediate purchase at the discounted prices: T Shirt £8, Hoodie £15. Both T Shirts and Hoodies are navy blue. If you would like one, email Fiona Newman direct: feemnewman@gmail.com.



St Alban's Players: The Friends Scheme

Would your family, friends and acquaintances like to join the Friends Scheme? Benefits of the scheme are discounted tickets, invitations to social events, and the knowledge that, as a Friend, you are supporting SAP in its dramatic endeavours! Membership of the scheme is £15/annum. Please email: stalbanplayers2024@gmail.com if someone you know would like to join the scheme.

News from other clubs

We are supporting fellow local drama groups by advertising their upcoming shows in Greasepaint, so here are a few that might take your fancy. Let us know of any others we can share:

13-16 th August	BLOC: <i>Les Miserables</i> , (directed by Alex Turasciewicz!)	Bristol Hippodrome, BS1 4UZ	https://www.blocproductions.co.uk/
5 th -6 th September	Bristol Musical Theatre: <i>Page to Stage</i>	Failand Village Hall, BS8 3TS	https://bristolmusicaltheatre.co.uk/upcoming-productions/
10 th -13th September	Sodbury Players: <i>The Legend of Sleepy Hollow</i>	Chipping Sodbury Town Hall, BS37 6AD	https://www.sodburyplayers.org.uk/tickets
28 th October-1 st November	Kelvin Players: <i>Gone Dark</i>	Kelvin Players Theatre, BS7 8NY	https://www.kelvinplayers.co.uk/

Dates for Your Diary

27th-29th November: Autumn Production – *Way Upstream*
16th OR 13th December (TBC): Christmas Show – *Wake Up, Father Christmas!*

