

# FRODSHAM PLAYERS

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## SECRETARY'S REPORT

2019 was another busy, successful year for Frodsham Players and I think we can all be proud of what was achieved.

At the AGM, Phil Bellamy was appointed as our new Treasurer and Murray Milligan and Carole Shinkfield were voted onto the Committee.

Our Spring production was 'Three Days in the Country', directed by Michael, a great play, which was fun to do. We performed it against the side wall in the Church, the first time we had done so, which worked well for lighting and audience viewing. Thanks and congratulations to Meriel for the wonderful costumes.

We did a fourth outdoor performance in the summer of 'The Railway Children', which was very successful, helped in part by mainly good weather, but also the great performances, especially from the children, fantastic train made by Clare and a popular story. This was Michael's last play with us, before his retirement, so we had a 'party' afterwards on the green and presented him with a picture consisting of the titles of all the plays he has directed for us over the last 20 years, a great achievement.

In October we took part in the celebrations for the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Community Centre. It was great that Gill and Beryl took part in our performance, as they remembered the opening of the Community Centre back in 1969. Gordon's lighting greatly enhanced the many performances over the weekend.

In November, we performed 'A Christmas Carol' directed by Carole Shinkfield, which was a huge success, with impressive performances and great lighting and sound. It worked well in the round and was sold out every night, which meant that that we made a large profit, despite it being quite an expensive play to stage. We also raised over £1,000 for Chester Aid for the Homeless through an audience collection.

Despite not having adjudications last year, Frodsham Players did win some awards: The Mayor's award for Best Performers of the Year, The Big Bees award for Best Performance for Christmas Carol and I was particularly pleased that Douglas and Meriel were awarded the Unsung Hero award by Cheshire West and Chester Voluntary Arts Network. This was well deserved.

We have gained quite a few new child members in the last year, including Nia Sconce, who played Phyllis in The Railway Children and also Tiny Tim in Christmas Carol.

Many thanks to Julia for organizing the new monthly members' evenings, which started in January. These have been great fun and are good opportunities for people who aren't in the current production to keep in touch.

Many thanks again to Ian for his leadership as Chairman this year. He has put a lot of energy into the role and has been very welcoming and encouraging to new members.

Unfortunately, there were also some great sadnesses this year, with the deaths of several members and friends of the Players. Diane, our beloved Treasurer, died in October, after a battle with brain cancer. Several of the Players attended her funeral. This year also saw the death of Bessie White, who did the box office for us for many years, as well as Frank Whitby, who was in so many of the past productions. We were also very sad to learn of the death of Roy Adams of Roy's Relics, who had been so kind in lending us props and furniture for our productions.

It is also sad that Douglas is still not well and we wish him all the best for a full recovery this year.

So we now look forward to 2020 and our Spring production of 'Visiting Hour' being directed by Iain Bennett. This series of short plays is very well written and a good mix of comedy and tragedy. Rehearsals are going well and are good fun. We also look forward to our summer production in the Church of 'The Rivals', which will be directed by David Varley.

Well done everyone and here's to a great 2020.

**Derinda Watson**