



@latchingdon\_artsdrama



@ladsdrama



L.A.D.S Latchingdon Arts and Drama Society

# L.A.D.S

NEWSLETTER MAY 2021—WEB ISSUE #8



## Onward and Upward!

A huge step in the right direction, we hope! As the government and the country slowly keep on continually moving in the right direction, and vaccines are being rolled out, new guidelines being put into place, and lockdown ever so slowly lifts....here at LADS the preparation and the anticipation is in full swing!

Even though the future is unclear for the society, as we wait patiently alongside many theatres and drama societies, we keep thinking of the positives, and take baby steps to ensure we hit the ground running as soon as we are able to.

The management committee continue to meet regularly over zoom to keep each other up to date, and constantly re-asses the situation for everyone at LADS. So far we have managed to keep safe, but still actively keep our LADS family involved in a safe and covid-friendly environment.

So what is it we have been utilising to keep in touch with the outside world? The Internet! We have had 3 successful and popular Zoom Murder Mysteries, plenty of zoom meetings, and constant contact via messenger.

The most recent April Zoom Murder Mystery was a complete success yet again for our small cast and team working on it. 'Bump off at the Barbeque' was a gripping Mystery from Down Under. The cast included Charlie Potter, Jessica Hallam, Teddy Allen, Kristina Oliffe, Callum Westwood and Holly Hallam. Not to mention our funny inspector who was well-portrayed by our Treasurer Richard Lang. The audience were laughing, and quite a few teams were spot on in their guesses. A huge hit once again! It's been fantastic to keep our audiences involved even from afar! A big thank you to Heather Bainbridge our Social Secretary for organising these Covid-friendly murder mysteries, whilst we could not meet in person.

There are new plans on their way, in case you were wondering what's in store next for LADs. The best advice we can give is to be as patient as possible (as hard as that may be, we know it is!) and as soon as the society are able to entertain audiences we will be!

For now, stay safe and we hope to see you very soon!

# Detailed Notices

An insight into the current notices for society!

LADS have had another successful Murder Mystery via zoom. 'Bump Off at the Barbeque' was widely popular, very funny and clearly well rehearsed by our cast & crew. Donning their sunglasses and Australian accents, they delivered another clean and hilarious murder mystery! A huge thank you to the cast, and Heather Bainbridge for organising our teams.

Management are still meeting via zoom—to remain completely covid safe until the Government Guidelines allows otherwise.

The future is still unknown, but keep checking the LADS website for regular up and coming blogs, photos and news! Recently a few blogs about our wonderful teams that work so tirelessly on our productions have proven informational and interesting! Check them out!



**Chair - Cathy Hallam**

**Vice Chair/Box Office - Alana Wilson**

**Treasurer - Richard Lang**

**Secretary - Moir Gunfield**

**Production Manager - Mandi Tickner**

**Health & Safety Officer - Charlie Potter**

**Website Manager - Matthew Bacon**

**Social Secretary - Heather Bainbridge**

**Publicity—Michelle Kuta**

**Buildings - Tom & Richard Playle**

**Sound - Teddy Allen**

**Lighting -Sean Sullivan - Connor Anderson**

**Stage/Set - Martin Gunfield**

**Costumes - Sharyn Hughes**

**Support - Kath Lang**

**NETG Liason - Doreen Neale**

# Member Spotlight

## Charlie Potter

I first joined LADS as a spotty little sixteen year old in 1995. I immediately fell in love with it. Back then we rehearsed in the granary in Peter's house and the shows were in Latchingdon village hall. The first production I was in was 'Toad of Toad Hall' I played a chicken. I still remember it well. My first scene was at the start of ACT two. The lights were off on stage as the ACT started I clucked my way from stage left to stage right in a bright yellow chicken costume as the lights came up. I was the only person on stage and the audience couldn't stop laughing at me, from that point I was hooked. Peter was then kind enough to put me in another three productions and because of my enthusiasm he even went as far as inventing roles for me if there wasn't one.



Health & Safety Officer—2019 to Present

Sadly after that the my young life took me in other directions but after a number of years I heard the call of the boards enticing me back and my thoughts turned to LADS once again. After mentioning once to Kathy Lang that I'd considered coming back for quite some time she called me and asked me if I would be interested in a part in Twelfth Night as the plays drunken jester 'Sir Andrew Aguecheek'. The perfect character for me as I love playing the fool. Something I do best some might say. The production was being performed to celebrate the 60th anniversary of LADS. I thought to myself if I don't do it now, I'll spend the rest of my life considering LADS and not actually doing it. So, I took her up on it.

I rejoined in May 2018 after a twenty seven year break and although a lot of things had changed it was still the wonderful society that I fell in love with the first time round. Lots of new faces and some old ones I remembered fondly from my first time at LADS. I have now been in every production since May 2018 and I've loved every minute of it. I have devoted my heart to it fully. In the evenings, if I'm not rehearsing and sometimes when I am, I can often be found helping Martin and Moir Gunfield building sets and props for productions. Something that we've now proudly won a couple of awards for and in August 2019 the Cathy the chairman asked me to become the new Health and Safety officer. Being welcomed back to LADS and after so long by everyone and being involved with everything going on has been a wonder experience for me and I wouldn't change it for the world.