

Shipham Players Annual General Meeting

Wednesday 25 February 2026

Chair's Report

2025 was another busy and good year for Shipham Players. We staged two productions, 'Daisy Pulls It Off' in February and a WW2 revue commemorating the 80th anniversary of VE Day in May. We also started the process of writing our own pantomime, to stage in February 2026, in the Autumn.

'Daisy Pulls It Off' showcased the amazing talent of our younger members, with support from the adults. It showed how far the girls have grown in their confidence and their acting skills. Dealing with a script set in the 20s, with words they did not know or understand, they rose to the challenge and the show was a tremendous success with some brilliant feedback.

In conjunction with staging Daisy, a working group was researching and writing material for the WW2 show. In revue style, with stories, songs and sketches, it enabled the group to also work collaboratively with both the History Society and the Shipham Collective. It was by no means an easy task, as a lot of research was required to bring the songs and stories of Shipham in WW2 to life. We were assisted by Justin Vallance from the History Society and were extremely grateful for his support. The show was an opportunity to remember and honour the men that lost their lives in Shipham. As well as being informative and entertaining, it was interactive. The cast became the various characters of the era and the hall was decked out as a WW2 street party, complete with bunting and flags. The audience were served ration boxes, with a variety of food from the 1940s. The weather was kind and we were able to spill outside. The cast, dressed in costume, mingled with the audience, the majority of which were suitably dressed up and there were prizes for the best dressed. We had our own Miners Arms pub and even a WW2 jeep! The shows were a fantastic success and greatly enjoyed both by members of the Players and the local community.

We enjoyed several social occasions during the year. We thank Sam and Dave Peake for hosting a great barbeque. In December, we held our annual Christmas do, which was again held in the GT room at the hall giving members the opportunity to socialize.

I would like to say a sincere thank you to both Tony Butler and Rachel Midcalf, both of whom are stepping down from the committee. Tony is also stepping down as a member of our technical crew. Tony has been fantastic with his work with our sound team and we will miss his amazing extensive knowledge and calm manner. He has also been involved on stage in many productions. We will also miss Rach from the committee as our very efficient secretary. We are delighted to hear that she still wishes to be involved with the group.

I would personally like to thank everyone on or off stage for their help with productions and making the Players the success it is. I would particularly like to thank the committee for their tireless support in keeping everything moving behind the scenes.

Debbie Andrews

Chair