



NEWS SHEET SEPTEMBER 2022

THE SUMMER STUDIO



Two fabulous casts! Top, Mark, Maria, Trenton, Linda, David and Jane in The Happy Journey, and bottom, Mark, Tabby, David and Vicky in No Exit.

These two admittedly somewhat odd one-act plays have been, if I may quote Garcin in *No Exit*, 'tickling me behind the ears' for many years. Nay, decades. So the suggestion of putting on a 'Summer Studio' was an ideal opportunity for me to submit them to the committee. They were accepted, and the long (and not always Happy!) journey began. Almost as soon as the plays were cast, actors dropped out from no fewer than five parts. So what else is new, I told myself, but in the end I couldn't have been more delighted, because no drama group anywhere could put together a better team of actors than I had to work with. The *No Exit* team buckled down to learning three of the biggest parts you've ever seen; the *Happy Journey*-ers threw themselves with

enthusiasm into some of the strange things I asked them to mime: buy hot-dogs, open windows, top up a radiator, open a boot, and drive a Chevrolet from Newark to Camden. Not the English ones, you understand: all this had to be done in American accents. They were fabulous!

No Exit presented different challenges. Who are these people? Where are they? Why? A strange threesome splits into all the permutations of two and one. They examine love and hate, attraction and revulsion, courage and fear as Sartre takes them to the excruciating discovery that hell is other people. And they are in hell, together, for eternity

Fewer people than we would have liked saw the plays, but those who did loved them. Audience members were seen drying their eyes after *Happy Journey*, and 'stunned' was a word used more than once as the punters left the hall. Whew!

Janda



LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Just when you thought you were safe I have returned! I'm back to being GP's chair for just one year, 2022-23, during an interregnum.

Emma has been an amazing Chair and has set us off in new and exciting directions, Summer Studio and Theatre Roadtrips being but two. She's still working hard for us – witness the fabulous poster and programme designs – but her work demands have increased to such an extent (she's so brilliant, you see!) that she decided to take a sabbatical. We're so grateful to her for her massive input – thank you from us all, Emma!

And what a hard act to follow! I shall do my best and hope that you will all help me and the committee (or should that be *the committee and I?*)* to continue to make Gweek players the very best. We can't do it without you!

At our wonderful AGM/BBQ, 36 of us partied all afternoon. Despite me overcooking the chicken (sorry!) it was an amazing spread, and a really fun chance just to chat ... and drink ... and eat ...

Please note our new committee members: Tabby Lammass and Roz Trudgeon. Lovely to have them on board!

Yours thespianically,

Aline



ONWARDS ONWARDS ONWARDS

Rehearsals are about to start and I am **so** looking forward to directing the fascinating play **Ring Round the Moon** with an amazing team to help me. Image design (Emma), set design (Susan), choreography (Bonar Law) and costume (Annie and friends) have been hard at work for weeks already, creating for us. Lighting and sound are nagging me for information. Many of the cast have been waiting with me for over two years to get this show on the road, and are as anxious as I am to get going. Let's get the party moving!

Aline (director)

Meet the Committee - 4th edition



Our Secretary Linda Capone

I was born in Stockport many moons ago. At the age of 3, my mother sent me to dance school just up the road, but I cried a lot so went back when I was a bit older! There were lots of shows and exams and I absolutely loved it. My first acting 'job' was the Sunday School Christmas play aged 7. I remember having to learn huge chunks of dialogue – well, it seemed a lot at the time! At high school I performed in all the house plays and sang in the choir. After A-levels I worked as an au pair in Paris where I learned more French in 6 months than in 7 years of French lessons in school. At college in High Wycombe I took a bilingual secretarial course with French and Italian in order to work abroad, which I did in Geneva and Florence.

I then decided to learn German and flew to Munich. After 6 months I got a job as PA to a professor at the Technical University for two years, after which I continued my studies at translating school (founded by Hitler's translator!) where I met my husband Michael. We later formed a translating company together. After Chernobyl, when Munich experienced radioactive fallout, we decided to move to England. We were on holiday in Cornwall when we came upon Mawnan Smith. We rented a cottage for 3 months before moving up the hill to our present home. We already had a son by this time and a few years later a daughter.

*Linda on holiday
recently*



Once the children were at school I had more time on my hands. I met Aline via Michael when they were

both working as First Responders. Aline happened to mention she was in Gweek Players, so I asked to go along to a meeting. I have since appeared in several plays, including *Noises Off*, *Habeas Corpus*, *The Importance of being Earnest*, *The Winslow Boy*, *Harvey*, *The 39 Steps* and *Improbable Fiction*. In November this year I have the small but peachy part of Capulet, the silly companion to Madame Desmortes in *Ring Round the Moon*.

In my role as Committee Secretary, I've been scribbling away at our monthly meetings for 5 years. Having forgotten all my Pitman's shorthand, I have great fun deciphering my cryptic notes for the Minutes!

A drama group is great for your social life, your confidence and your memory!! I'd recommend it to anyone. Whether you act or work behind the scenes – there's nothing like it!
See you at the show!

Linda

Road Trips

We've had some really successful road trips recently. The live performance recording of **Prima Facie** (with Jodie Comer from *Killing Eve*) was brilliant. We were all blown away by her performance. **Educating Rita** by St Agnes Players was an excellent production. It's wonderful to go and see the work of other groups. I'm taking a break from organising trips whilst I concentrate on *Ring Round the Moon*, but individual members may well step into the breach. Mandy has already organised a trip to see **The Tempest** at Trebah - but, sorry, already sold out! Any members wanting to organise a trip, please let me know!

And Extracts from our retired chairman's speech at the AGM:

Secretary, Linda: bless you. I don't know how you cope. You minute a 9-person babble (I wouldn't have a hope.)

Our bookings manager, Vanda, with military precision, Can now tell you when we're booked in the Hall, In 2067.

Our Treasurer Sandy; thank you. You keep us, and our funds, in line. In addition, you voluntarily Control quality in our wine.

By now I've run out of nice things to say, But I can't stop talking in rhyme! I'll say thanks, and hand over to Aline. Bloody gagging for some of my wine!



!!!!HEADLINESHEADLINES!!!!

Who would have thought our former chairman was so sneaky?



Off she went with long-term partner Sean, on holiday to Thailand so they **said**, and came home married!!



But being the warm, kind, generous and forgiving souls Gweek Players are, we said we weren't at all cross because they'd denied us a knees-up (Huh!) . . . and bought them one of those delivered-to-your-door special meals with wine.



Emma and Sean!

Don't they look HAPPY!!