

## **Blewbury Players**

### **Report to the BVS AGM and Annual Parish Meeting 2022**

The Players have had a busy year.

In April 2021, we transmitted our online revue *BBC Online – The Lockdown Edition*. This comprised original sketches, songs and poems resulting from a series of Zoom workshops during lockdown, which encouraged people to try their hand at creative writing for performance.

In July, we presented *Romeo and Juliet*, directed by Chris Staines. This had been postponed in 2020 because of the pandemic. We were delighted to be back at Orchard Dene in front of live audiences, albeit masked and socially distanced, and the production was a great success. Rehearsals had to observe strict Covid precautions to make sure the cast made it all the way through to performance unscathed by the virus and we introduced an entirely online booking system, which we will retain for all future productions.

In January we produced *Cinderella* in the village hall. This was another fun and successful show, very much enjoyed by 5 to 85 year olds.

In April this year we entertained our Friends in the village hall with three films– a short promotional film, a repeat of BBC Online – The Lockdown Edition and The Making of Romeo and Juliet, a behind the scenes peep at last year's summer show, which we produced so that we would have some sort of record in the event of Covid making it impossible for us to continue with a live show. In the event, the show was happily able to proceed but we have produced an interesting and enjoyable film in its own right.

We are now preparing for this year's summer production of *Much Ado About Nothing*, directed by Ed White. We last performed this thirty years ago when Ed was eight, saw the show and caught the bug. Now a professional actor, he is coming back home to direct for us. Performances are from 20-23 July.

On 17 June, Chris Whatmore will be talking about *Much Ado* in the Vale Room. Chris's expert and fascinating talks are always popular and will be whetting our appetite for the show.

The Players are grateful for all the support they receive from their Friends and from the village community. They would not be able to do what they do without it.

**Steve White, Trustee**