

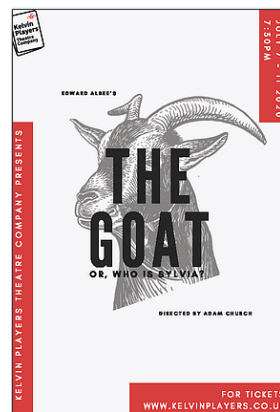


# The Jester

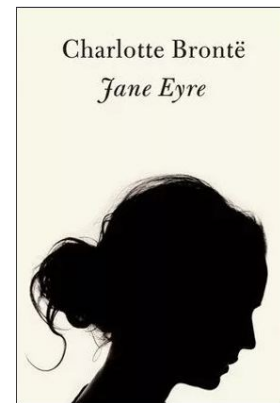
August — September 2020



2021



2021



2021

## Our Future Productions

I'm afraid this edition of *The Jester* like the last is very thin. I delayed publication hoping for more material, but what we have is what we have! Despite reminders in *The Digest*, I have not received enough material for the last two issues during the lockdown, so *The Jester* is reverting to its usual bi-monthly production. Therefore this issue is for August/September. (Of course, this could change to greater frequency if enough material is forthcoming!) The deadline for the October/November *Jester* will be 28th September.

Whilst theatres remain shut, it might be nice for *The Jester* to adopt a wider theatre magazine style approach. I will of course include stuff about and related to Kelvin and its members (which of course I will prioritise). This could include stuff about upcoming Kelvin shows as usual, but also stuff about past shows (with accompanying photos if submitted!), your reminiscences, general things about Kelvin, the studio, the personal things that members are doing during the lockdown (not necessarily theatre related, and photos if you wish!), info and photos about family and friends etc. The aim is to make it a sort of Kelvin members forum for us all to get to know something more about each others' lives (for those who wish to share it).

Material can also include articles, reviews, poems, playscripts, short stories (not more than 2 pages), comedy sketches, comic pieces, comments etc written by any Kelvin members (or their families!), and in a wider context I will also welcome any comments, reviews, thoughts, or news about theatre (and film) in general, unrelated to Kelvin, whether local or national – so if you want to write a review about any stage play you like or have seen anywhere in the past, or perhaps a film or TV drama, whether amateur or professional, London shows, National Theatre, The Globe, etc please do so. We might for example, have a 'Shakespeare Corner'.....

How this 'lockdown' *The Jester* looks is of course up to everyone. Anything goes really in these strange times, so it's up to you! Get submitting.....!

Please try not to preformat or cut and paste your submissions if possible, as this makes it more difficult for me to manipulate them for publication. Thanks.

So if you have anything at all to send me for inclusion in the next issue of *The Jester*, you can do so at any time by emailing it to me at: [jester@kelvinplayers.co.uk](mailto:jester@kelvinplayers.co.uk) Do check out our website: [www.kelvinplayers.co.uk](http://www.kelvinplayers.co.uk) and follow us on Twitter, Facebook etc Best wishes and keep safe,

Geoff Collard (editor)

**The deadline for the next *Jester* will be Monday September 28th 2020**



## Letter from the Chair.....

Hello fellow Kelvin members;

These of you will notice my 'Chair' picture this month is situated on a beach somewhere which is perhaps wishful thinking as the virus that has been considered to be a pandemic continues throughout the world to create problems.

We have been blessed with reasonable weather in general and it has been lovely to sit out in the garden and perhaps chat over the fence with your neighbour from time to

time.

The government is slowly beginning to relax rules on lockdown but we are all going to have to change the way we go about our daily business until we can safely say that it is under control and things can return back to normal. With that in mind, Kelvin still have no clear plans for when we will open and when we can allow our usual 'lets' to resume the hire of our premises, but rest assured that all of you (our members and patrons) will be given information as and when we receive it.

So what have all of you been doing to keep yourself amused whilst in lockdown? I understand that probably like myself you have still been working albeit from your home or as a critical worker in the community, but in those hours of down time how have you coped? I know that Adam Church continues with his sterling efforts to produce a Podcast every day from the many contributions that all of you send to him. Jacqs and Nicky are running a Zoom Directors course and Mat, Charlotte and Jacqs have also held play readings.

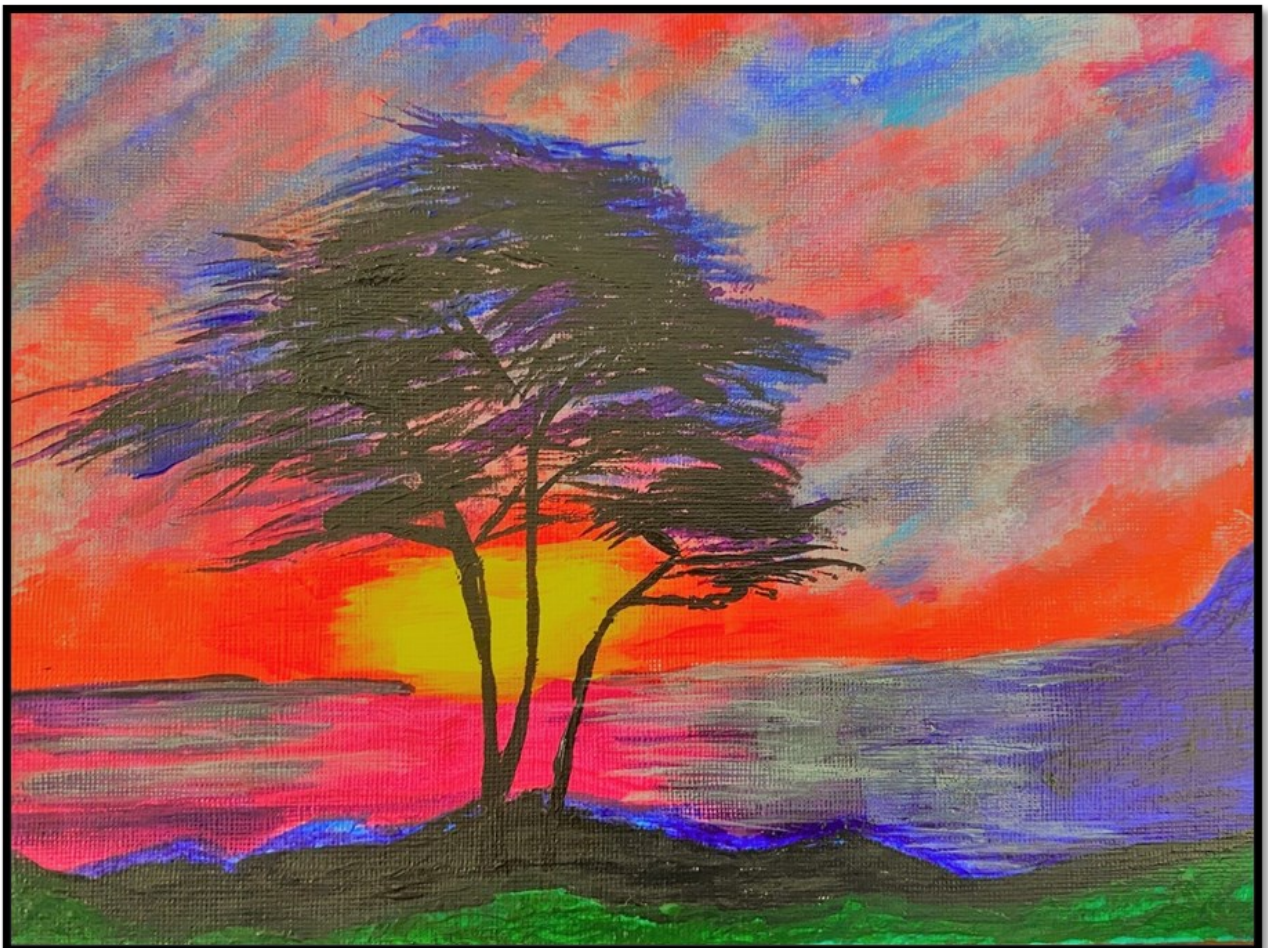
Several members have been in touch with me to see how I am and I thank you for that. It's really nice to hear from my friends especially when living on your own and it's important to keep that communication going with everyone. I decided to start painting again which is a pastime that I only resumed a couple of years ago and one that I had not really done since leaving school. I like painting still life and landscapes or something taken from a photograph, and the medium I use is acrylics.

Anyway, I leave you with a couple of recent attempts of my leisure time. Please stay safe and keep healthy and I look forward to seeing you all in person again one day.

*Sue*







## KELVIN AGM 27<sup>th</sup> September 2020 - CANCELLED

I am writing to let you all know that as a result of discussions at our committee meeting this week, the committee have taken the decision to not hold our Annual General Meeting as usual in September.

The reasoning behind this is as follows:

Our AGM is generally quite a social affair in which during the order of business, we discuss this year's accounts and vote to accept them, we are presented with our season for next year by the Artistic Planning Committee and vote on that. We give out awards for various acting performances, special mentions and other activities undertaken in the club. We elect officers to undertake roles within the club and we re-elect the chair.

With the exception of our financial accounts which must be statutorily be filed within 10 months of the year end to the Charities Commission, the AGM is not mandatory or insisted on just because we are a registered Charity. Indeed, there are several clubs who are in a similar position to ourselves and have in fact either postponed or cancelled and likewise they are also Registered Charities. All that we are required to do is show in our records kept by the management team is that good governance is being kept and our general meetings are recorded and effective.

Having looked at all the reasons above for calling members to attend an AGM we feel that in view of current government guidelines and the fact that we do not have a comprehensive COVID-19 Risk Assessment it made sense to cancel in view of the fact there would be very little business to discuss. In respect of the Financial Accounts, these will continue to be finalised between Peter and Rick and then sent to the auditors for their completion. On receiving them back we will email a complete set to all members of the club with hard copies sent out to those members who choose not to use email. I intend to hold a Zoom meeting online for all members on Thursday 08<sup>th</sup> October to give you an opportunity to raise any questions or queries you might have with Peter or myself.

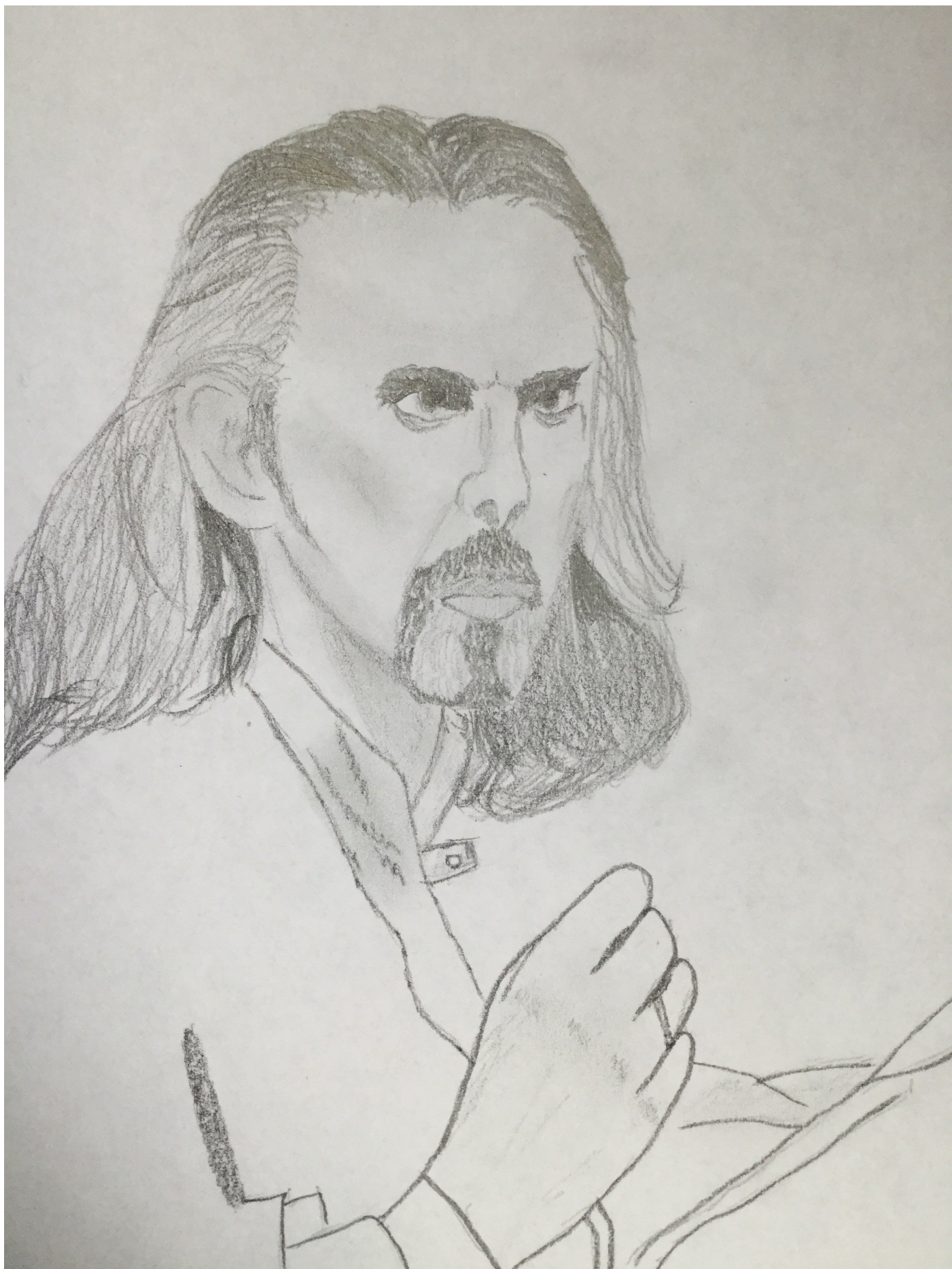
All current postholders on the committee have agreed to remain until September 2021, the awards will also be deferred to next year when we will have completed a full season of activities. At present Jon Bard has taken over from Paul Garner as the new lettings manager as this is a non-elected role.

As your current Chair I am committed along with my fellow members on the General Committee to ensuring you remain safe and as well as you possibly can. The committee for Kelvin has a duty of care and responsibility for all who use our building and which we do take very seriously.

*Sue Stobbs*

[chair@kelvinplayers.co.uk](mailto:chair@kelvinplayers.co.uk)





**Jonny Wilkinson as Dracula in Kelvin's production in 1999**

*Drawing by Susan Howe*



# *My trip to Aardman Animations*

*February 2020*

by Susan Howe

The volunteer co-ordinator (Jo) at We The Curious (“WTC”) invited me for a drink back in January this year, just for a chat and to say thanks as I had just achieved 500 hours volunteering with them.

As they are a very generous organisation and have given me lovely gifts for the celebration of my 100, 200, 300 & 400 hours previously, I knew she was digging around to see what she could do to show their gratitude for the latest milestone. Jo started talking about the Trustees on WTC’s board and when she mentioned David Sproxton of Aardman Animations, my face lit up. I have been a fan of Aardman since I first watched Morph on Tony Hart’s tv programme in the 1970’s. Stop motion animation has always fascinated me and I can’t get enough of the behind the scenes interviews and videos showing tricks of the trade. Jo had hit the nail on the head, she was so very pleased. She pressed me further for reasons why I liked animation so much and promised she would get in touch with David and see if he was willing to meet me and show me around their offices.

A few weeks passed, then an email appeared in my inbox from the great man himself. Boy, was I excited. The mouse hovered over the email, I was almost afraid to open it just in case it was a hoax or he was writing to say it wasn’t possible. But, I took a deep breath and clicked on the subject “Lunch with David” and was so thrilled. It was hard to read through the tears of joy.

We managed to arrange a date in February to meet for lunch with a promise of a tour of their offices as well and I just couldn’t wait for that day to arrive. Naturally, I arrived in good time and fortunately was permitted to wander around the foyer area (which is quite large and with a very high ceiling) to take selfies with the models/statues etc, then I waited patiently. He arrived, grinning a huge welcoming smile and proceeded to present me with an Aardman book which both he and Peter Lord had signed. Then he took me to lunch at Gaol Steps where we talked non-stop. I was really pleased with myself for preparing some questions for him, which he happily answered.

Then we walked back to the studios and he showed me around some of the offices and introduced me to a few of the guys, including Merlin Crossingham, their creative director. He even treated me to a cuppa in their restaurant. It was a wonderful, fascinating, superb and most memorable day and I feel so very lucky to have been honoured to see “backstage” at one of the industry’s giants.



Susan and Morph



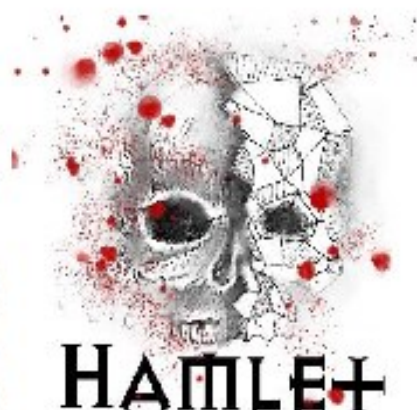
With David Sproxton

## William Shakespeare's HAMLET

Directed by Kris Hallett

As lockdown restrictions have evolved, we've kept a flame lit and our #Hamfam connected – with weekly zoom line bashes, plus a few quiz nights for fun.

After a readthrough of the whole play last Sunday (24 May) we're going to take a break, until a date is determined for Kelvin to re-open. It's been good to build muscle memory doing lines, and going through the entire play in one go was just great. A huge THANK YOU from Kris and me to everyone for your commitment in these crazy days. For now, we'll carry on keeping in touch – entertained by a steady chat stream on WhatsApp and generally keep the Hamlet flag flying!



Teri Mohiuddin,  
Production Manager



# ***THE KELVIN PLAYERS PODCAST***

**Podcast;** A podcast is an episodic series of spoken word digital audio files that a user can download to a personal device for easy listening.

The KP Podcast has been set up as a way for us to stay in touch, create something using our theatrical passions and just generally maintain our cheery club positivity during lockdown.

They have been very successful, with a new podcast posted every day.

Members are invited to send me recordings of their favourite monologues, short stories and poems. Every day, (for as long as I have content), I will create a new episode for all in the club to listen to.

If you're interested in recording something for an episode please follow these simple steps:

Find a quiet room

Record your piece on your phone via the medium of your gorgeous voice

Send your recording to me at [adamchurch@gmail.com](mailto:adamchurch@gmail.com) along with a brief synopsis of the piece and why you've chosen it

That's it! Easy, right? There's no time limit on recordings, so what're you waiting for?

Many of you have already sent me your recordings and it really is awesome to have this level of involvement from all you lovely club members.

Links to the episodes will be posted to the Kelvin Players Members Facebook page and via email.

Get in touch if you have any questions and please keep your recordings coming.

**Adam Church**

[Adamchurch@gmail.com](mailto:Adamchurch@gmail.com)