Report for the Bancroft Players AGM 21 by the Artistic Director

It would be wonderful to bang on about 'another wonderful year' but of course in these post covid times, it's been anything but a smooth ride for the theatre. First of all, I would like to give very sincere thanks to all those that have kept the theatre going through these last 15 or so months.  It's not been easy and with the guidance from the government about what was 'advised' and what was 'mandated' being a bit at sixes and sevens, our task was even harder. Even now, we're not out of the wood by any means. I was at the National Theatre just last week and it was still mainly closed although carefully running some shows.  So - you know - it can be difficult to judge what we should be doing now and in the immediate future.

Looking back over the last year, particularly the last few months, we have put on some remarkable shows albeit with small casts. Jules has become a dab-hand at recording them so we are building a stock of shows we can play online if lockdown comes upon us once more (let's pray it won't!). It's been remarkable to see the theatre coming back to life after the long winter of lockdown and we owe crazy thanks to Chris Lane, Andrew Castell, Christine, Roman and everyone who took part in that process of opening the place up.

Looking forward, my dear colleagues Elliott, Nicky and David on the play selection panel have tentatively chosen an exciting programme for next year - licences in place and everything. We even have a couple of large cast shows in the mix and all this will be announced very soon.

What we need now is to continue to invite people down to be part of this wonderful project - our unique venue and the Society which inhabits it. It's wonderful that more social events are planned as I think this makes the QMT a home for members as well as a place for great creative work.

*Rory Reynolds, August 2021*