



# Exeter Drama Company

May 2018

## The Next Chapter

Many of our members are asking what the future holds for the Exeter Drama Company. We have been very fortunate since our move to Alphington in 2008. The Alphington Community Association originally let us have the annexe to the Village Hall as a rehearsal space and to store our scenery and costumes. It was just a large corrugated shed, damp and cold, but immediately we could see the potential for creating a place where we could perform. We took our proposal to the ACA and they supported our idea even offering to waive rent for three years until we were up and running. When the Village Hall was rebuilt it was hoped that the Shed would be included, but unfortunately the funds raised meant that the project would have to come in two stages. We held our breath that the building would hold up until there was sufficient money. Unfortunately, the Shed continued to deteriorate and at the end of 2017 it was refused insurance. The ACA offered us sole use of another of their buildings, but while we could have rehearsed and stored all off our theatrical paraphernalia there, it was just too small to be able to put on full productions. Having performed 57 shows in the Shed, we were saddened to move out, but having cleared everything off to member's garages and a shipping container (we certainly do have a lot of stuff) it was obvious that the insurers had been

right. We found that the floor had rotted all along the left side of the building (it was a race as to who would fall through first, the audience or the actors). The asbestos roof was seriously leaking all over, but particularly up in our lighting section where the majority of the electrics were housed. Since leaving we have been rehearsing at various houses and at Alphington School, where we performed our first show of the year, *Who Dies Wins*, in the school holidays. Our next two shows will be in St Michael's Church (*Bonaventure*) and the Alphington Village Hall (*1960s – The Musical*) and I'm sure we'll be using all three of these venues again when they have a week free in their busy schedules. The EDC appreciate how lucky we are that Alphington has so many spaces that are affordable to rent. We are keeping our eyes open for a permanent venue, but most halls have other groups regularly using them, so a full week run of a show is difficult. The ACA are busy fundraising to rebuild a purpose built theatre in the space where the Shed was and have already raised a third of the money needed. They would love to have us back, so we are keeping our fingers crossed that the funds can be found. In the meantime, we will go on performing in Alphington and hope that you will continue to support us.