

## The Story of our 'Lockdown' Podcast

I would like to talk about the process that my fellow amateur, novice or dare I say in some cases virgin "thespians" and I went through to produce this audio podcast of a short 30min. play about the 1820 Paisley Rising.

Some people are aware that initially it was to be a live play to complement some of the research carried out by a sub group of the history group from U3A who were concentrating on this topic. For practical reasons the play was changed to a video then due to the current coronavirus and lockdown, it became an audio play. Our film and sound person [my brother-in-law] that I had roped in for the video, suggested the idea of a podcast and was confident that he could put the individual, separate home recordings together albeit a time consuming business.

During those early days of "lockdown," people were looking for new hobbies or projects to keep busy therefore great enthusiasm ensued among our motley cast, not least for being able to erase the dreaded task of learning, then possibly forgetting lines, from the play [Senior Moment!] We all thought that simply reading from the script would be ..... EASY...but that didn't prove to be the case!

Some parts had to be quickly changed both by people playing particular roles and scenes changing from a visual to a more audio friendly experience. Eventually yet another final script was sent out to everyone [10 people in total] and recordings begun.

If you have EVER tried recording your own voice let alone having to put on auld Scots accents of the day without stuttering, stammering, mispronunciation at every turn -- THINK AGAIN!

Next, the songs and additional sound effects had to be added with some hilarious moments before getting it quite right. Our phones were pinging back and forth to each other with yet another "Eh--umm, do you think you could do that line again, shouting louder this time?" Heaven knows what some of the neighbours must have thought with lines like "You're nothing but a hired murderer!" echoing through the street. Three weeks later, after everyone's determination and hard work, our magnificent sound man magically put together all the various recordings - at last a final production!

In retrospect it's maybe just as well that it wasn't a live play or video as we are all "A bit long in the tooth" and this way you don't need to see our lovely faces!

Let your imagination instead take you to the streets of Paisley in the early 19th century to remember a part of Scottish history that should not be forgotten ----- ENJOY!

Dot Dickson  
(Director)