



# Meopham Players Newsletter

www.meophamplayers.co.uk

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## Shakespeare's Globe "As You Like It" visit



Simon Harrison as Orlando and Michelle Terry as Rosalind

**A**s You Like It has a special place in Players' affections, writes Brenda Ogden, as it is one of the productions which we put on in St John's church in the village over 10 years ago - a really ambitious project which was enjoyed by large audiences.

Shakespeare is one of the few writers who can create interesting and convincing female characters and Rosalind is one of his best. In this production she is being played by Michelle Terry who will be remembered with admiration by anyone who went to see the films of the live performances of "Much Ado about Nothing" and "Love's Labours Lost" from the Royal Shakespeare Theatre at Stratford.

The production has received some glowing reviews. Among them are -

*"Michelle Terry is one of our most glorious actresses" - OBSERVER & "A warmly entertaining evening" - GUARDIAN*

*"Witty and affectionate...with headlong energy and deepening tenderness" - TELEGRAPH.*

If you couple that with the fact that this is the play which contains the famous "All the world's a stage" speech, that it is full of cross-dressing confusion and just about everybody marries everybody else in the last scene, then I think you will agree that we are in for a thoroughly enjoyable evening.

Before the performance people will be able to enjoy a meal together and wander about the area picking up the totally unique atmosphere of the Globe.

There is just one ticket left costing £37.30. If anyone is interested please let me know as soon as possible. I can't imagine anywhere else in London where you can get theatre tickets at that price...so come and enjoy a very special day out.  
*Shakespeare's Globe, 5th Sep., at 7.30 pm*

## Super Soaraway FUN!

**A**s readership for British newspapers heads over a steep cliff with plummeting sales the Players' Newsletter continues to go from strength to strength having increased its circulation by a whopping 10% in its first year.



*"Readership for British national newspapers, as estimated by the National Readership Survey, has fallen 13 percent on average compared to the previous year, with particularly bad results for the Independent, Daily Mirror and Guardian" reported the respected trade journal theMediaBriefing.*

In stark contrast the revamped bulletin has experienced a massive boost in circulation currently boasting a mind boggling readership of thirty-three compared with a mere thirty just 12 months ago.

Webmaster Rodney Buckland said *'the twittersphere is abuzz and the Newsletter is the fastest trending topic at the moment,'* sipping his glass of red wine he added *'the website has been inundated with enquiries. I have had three in the last month and they have all been about our journal. Hic'.*

*See Page 4 for a full round-up of an action packed year*

# Meopham Parish Mid-Summer Fete

By our Special Pulitzer Award Winning Roving Correspondent Terry Fairhead

**B**ut for the imposition of a 'U' in mid-summer we might well have expected to meet one of the Chief Inspector Barnabys engaged in solving at least three gruesome murders in or around the sun-drenched green.

Sun-drenched though, we were not, and if you wanted proof that real life can't compete with drama you should have been sitting in the occasional light drizzle with us. One of our supporters kindly lent us a small open-sided gazebo into which we put a longish table and (eventually) the front-of-house board for the photographs. I say eventually because we were initially unable to find the board and it was only due to Bill's persistence it was finally located.

So there was a bit of detective work going on after all. Actually, Chief Inspector Bill Barnaby has quite a dashing

ring about it, don't you think?

Marks out of 10 for presentation; what could one give? Well you have to remember it was sort of thrown together rather quickly and by just a pitifully few people and added to that we had to rush away to knock up a sign to identify ourselves. So I'd give us a 6 at least. It was certainly better than Little Grimley would have managed.

As to the fete itself, I thought it had quite a lot to offer; a five-a-side football competition for the juniors; a cheerleaders display; a vintage/veteran car exhibition; a couple of genuine steam engines and a chapter of would-be Hells Angels. These together with all the stalls made for a good day out, a fact reflected by the number of visitors attending. We even managed to get some of them to sign up to be notified of forthcoming productions and if I can decipher what they've written, that's what we'll do.



*Sun-drenched it wasn't but Chief Inspector Bill Barnaby's detective work proved invaluable and helped save the day for the soggy Meopham Players.*

## Meopham Players Officers & Committee 2014/15

By our Home Affairs Editor Lunchtime O'Snooze

**T**he Player's AGM held on 1 July became more raucous as the evening wore on due to the free flowing wine dispensed by the Front of House Manager.

Amongst the merriment subscriptions and ticket prices were left unchanged, the financial accounts were approved, and the outgoing Chairman experienced a malfunction with both his hearing aids leaving him more nonplussed than usual.

The attendees less compos mentis than the rest were then quickly press ganged onto the Committee and awoke the next day ruefully nursing a thick head and to find they were running the Society.

### Officers of the Society



President:  
Henry  
Roberts



Chairman:  
Sylvia  
Stickings



Vice-Chairman:  
Terry  
Fairhead



Secretary:  
Terri  
Horton



Treasurer:  
Anne  
Horrocks

*In addition, Edna Bell continues as Vice President, a non-officer role appointed at the discretion of the Committee, and Sylvia Stickings as the Meopham Village Committee Representative*

### Members of the Committee



FOH Manager:  
Bill  
Lambert



Webmaster:  
Rodney  
Buckland



Box Office:  
Terry  
Fairhead



Social  
Secretary:  
Sylvie Harmer



Publicity:  
John  
Ogden



Equipment  
Manager:  
Howard Antwiss



Committee  
Member:  
Lesley Boycott



Newsletter  
Editor:  
S Sangha

# Bijou Tales of Theatre Folk

## "Got it in blue" by Les Peters

**B**ig names in this one, I hope I am not risking libel proceedings with this. It is during the rehearsals for Starlight Express at the Victoria Apollo theatre in 1984.



I do not feature in this tale but my claim to fame that I was the first operator for the machinery in the show. At the time it was revolutionary and no one had heard of an automation operator. This is now a separate trade and there are now many working on most musicals. I was the first.

The tale involves the director Trevor Nunn who you will know and the lighting designer David Hearsy.

David is arguably the most successful lighting designers ever, having lit shows in the West End on Broadway and most of the European opera houses.

They were both seated at their respective production desks in the stalls when lunch was called. David wanted to take the opportunity to do a bit of plotting while the stage was clear and persuaded the board operator to take a late lunch.



He sat there for over an hour plotting just one state adding and subtracting lights, adjusting levels and colours. The result was a lighting state of reds and oranges for the scene in question.

At this point Trevor Nunn came back and was walking up the aisle with his back to the stage. David shouted to ask "Trevor what do you think of this for the scene". Trevor without stopping or turning to look said "very nice David, have you got it in blue". Mr Hearsy threw down his cans stormed from the building and was seen no more that day.

## IN SHORT



Sylvie Stickings has reluctantly decided not to enter the Duncan Rand Festival, due to insufficient time to prepare properly for this prestigious event.

**"We won't be ready in time, as we are short of about three weeks rehearsal time"** Sylvie told the *Newsletter* but as the cast has been rehearsing for some time, she added **"we will do it for the membership at the September meeting, a lot of hard work has gone into this and it would be a pity to waste it!"**

Paul Doust and The Chandeliers will be running a full, two hours a week directing course - 6 Sept '15

At the workshop you will learn about ;

-**IMPULSE STAGING** - an exciting and creative alternative to "blocking".

-**How -to help your actors find the thoughts and drives of their characters .**

-**Paul's "Top Ten Tips" for managing a company**

Simply send Paul an email:

[pdtheatreworkshops@hotmail.com](mailto:pdtheatreworkshops@hotmail.com)

### Meopham Players CONTACTS

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# Super Soaraway SCOOPS!

How the Newsletter became the Nation's Number One, *continued from the front page*



August 2014

'Mayhem at Meopham'—we reveal the shock AGM Results



September 2014

Mysecretlife inaugural feature unveiled with member profiles



October 2014

'Peggy For You' sets new records for expletives uttered in one play.



November 2014

'Players' Xmas Xtravaganza' exclusive spills the beans on knees-up



Dec 2014/Jan 2015

Bumper Yuletide edition spreads joy and goodwill for the festive



February 2015

Tribute edition marking the premature passing of David Micklethwaite



March 2015

'Bijou Tales of Theatre Folk' introduced to great popular acclaim.



April 2015

'An Evening in Little Grimley' to be the next Players' production.



May 2015

'Anniversary' celebratory dinner postponed for re-think.



June 2015

'Meopham Summer Fete' to promote the Players' activities.