



e: [MeophamPlayers@gmail.com](mailto:MeophamPlayers@gmail.com)

## Meopham Players Newsletter

October 2016/issue 26

# Quartet good to go



**Q**uartet is a warm hearted comedy that challenges some of the notions we have about old age in a poignant and humorous way. Three lifelong friends, Cissy, Reggie & Wilf find themselves in a retirement home for opera singers where they live together in harmony mutually supporting one another.



Rodney Buckland [Reggie] & Diana Dixon [Jean]

One day their peace is shattered by the unexpected arrival of a grandiose prima donna, Jean, the ex-wife of Reggie. Jean is down on her luck but her monstrous ego is intact ready to bulldoze all those before it.

Cissy is played with verve by a Players'



S Sangha [Wilf] & Brenda Ogden [Cissy]

favourite, Brenda Ogden, and the part of Jean is given extra zing by Diana Dixon, who recently joined our group. Rodney Buckland is Reggie a sensitive man of letters, poetry and deep thought and the part of Wilf - a randy oldster who is intent on aging disgracefully – is taken by S Sangha.

Rehearsals are in full swing with the cast being kept in order by Director Sylvia Stickings ably assisted by Emily Stickels.

Quartet will be performed at Meopham Village Hall on 27, 28 and 29 October.

The Box Office is open 0844 2889708 or email: [Meophamplayers@aol.com](mailto:Meophamplayers@aol.com)



## Theatre Dining Experience

**O**ur Theatre Dining Experience has proved exceptionally popular with a choice of three venues to choose from offering fantastic food in smart surroundings.

We have partnered with Bartellas, The Cricketers and The George to offer you a range of dining experiences at a bargain price of £19 per head for a two course meal - including show admission.

Make it a night to remember and book now!

Meopham Players *presents*

**QUARTET**

A PLAY by RONALD HARWOOD  
Directed by SYLVIA STICKINGS

at MEOPHAM VILLAGE HALL  
DA13 0AT  
OCTOBER 27<sup>th</sup> 28<sup>th</sup> 29<sup>th</sup> at 8.00pm  
BOX OFFICE 0844 2889708  
email [meophamplayers@aol.com](mailto:meophamplayers@aol.com)  
ADULTS & CHILDREN £6.50  
MEMBERS & CONCESSIONS £6.00  
**THEATRE EXPERIENCE!**  
£19 FOR TICKETS AND A 2 COURSE MEAL AT  
BARTELLAS, THE CRICKETERS OR THE GEORGE  
LICENSED BAR AND REFRESHMENTS

# A Fond Farewell from Terri Horton

**M**y friends, fellow thespians, "The Players", my thanks to everyone  
**E**ach moment a memory I'll cherish, and above all it's been such fun  
**O**n AGM night I was speechless, yes, a rare event it is true  
**P**resented with the beautiful rose bowl, which is so very kind of you  
**H**aving joined to take part backstage, with set building, props and crew  
**A**cting was not in my mind, wasn't something I thought I would do  
**M**onths passed, I did props, then came panto, "everyone has a part" I was told  
**P**layed "cookie", and oh how I loved it, on performing I was now sold!  
**L**earned loads from such talented friends, look around you and you will see  
**A**ll their knowledge and skill freely shared, so our plays are the best they can be  
**Y**es indeed, I count myself lucky, had some great roles in some wonderful shows  
**E**very one has a memory, from doughnuts and Grimley to wells and green algae that glows  
**R**eally will miss you, the fun and the friendship, and I know I'll be back time to time  
**S**o remind me again, the rose bowl's for flowers? No, will be better filled up with red wine!!  
**Cheers!**



*Terri Horton*

# What to see, what to do...



**Ima Starstruck**

Our Showbiz Correspondent with her

## October

**WED 5 Oct** - Panto Auditions

**Quartet - *Many hands make light work***

**22 & 23 Oct** - Set building, help wanted!

**30 Oct**—Set striking

## November

**WED 2 Nov** - Mat Wills, stand up comic fresh from Edinburgh Fringe

**12 Nov** - Trip to Meantime Brewery Company arranged by John Winson & Lesley Boycott, email: [jwinson1955@icloud.com](mailto:jwinson1955@icloud.com)

## December 2016

**7 Dec** Christmas Social Meal at Three Daws -confirmed

## January 2017

**Panto - Jan 2017**

## May 2017

An Inspector Calls - May production

# Art Group to help with scene painting

**M**arie Dodds and her Meopham art group will bring a professional touch to the set of Quartet and sprinkle magic dust over the panto stage in January, next year. Stimul8-Activity Service offer art based activity groups for adults with sessions held in various local venues including Meopham Village Hall. Marie with her band of enthusiastic of artists will soon be donning smocks and wielding brushes in a Village Hall near you!

## Art Based Activity Groups for Adults

Hi my name is Marie, since March this year I have been providing art based activity groups in the local area. I am now introducing 3 new art groups. Each group has been specifically designed only for adults as a recreational and social pastime. I place a big emphasis upon enjoyment and with most individuals attending with little art knowledge, it's a great way to learn. I supply all the necessary equipment and materials all within the small weekly fee. However, additional payments may be required if a pottery or floral session is requested, due to the cost of these materials.



This is a great way to find new friends and socialise whilst getting creative. Each group is guided and encouraged to aspire regardless of ability and has a comfortable and relaxed atmosphere to work in, many have said "it's therapeutic".

**FIRST SESSION FREE WITH THIS LEAFLET!!!**

**Mrs Marie Dodd**  
**07479306603**

[mariedodd@stimul8-activityservice.co.uk](mailto:mariedodd@stimul8-activityservice.co.uk)

Finally, I also encourage the celebration of our art work each week through my Facebook group and page so look them up!

"Stimuli-Activity Service Ltd".

[www.stimul8-activityservice.co.uk](http://www.stimul8-activityservice.co.uk)



Meopham Players

## CONTACTS

**PRESIDENT:** Henry Roberts  
**CHAIRMAN:** Sylvie Stickings  
**SECRETARY:** Emma Hawkins  
**TREASURER:** Ann Horrocks

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## NEWSLETTER

**EDITOR:** S Sangha  
**e:** [meophamPlayers@gmail.com](mailto:meophamPlayers@gmail.com)

Meopham Players *presents*



A PLAY by **RONALD HARWOOD**  
Directed by **SYLVIA STICKINGS**



at **MEOPHAM VILLAGE HALL**

**DA13 0AT**

**OCTOBER 27<sup>th</sup> 28<sup>th</sup> 29<sup>th</sup> at 8.00pm**

**BOX OFFICE 0844 2889708**

**email [meophamplayers@aol.com](mailto:meophamplayers@aol.com)**

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# PIECES OF EIGHT



My life in eight pieces, by **Diana Dixon**, a recent recruit to Meopham Players. She has always loved acting but her parents would not contemplate sending her to drama school. The song 'Don't put your daughter on the stage Mrs

Worthington' might have been written for her! Instead Diana became a teacher and did quite a bit of am dram in her youth but marriage and children took over and she only plucked up courage to join a theatre group when they moved to Collier Street. Diana appears as the imperious Jean in our next production *Quartet*, 27, 28 & 29 Oct

## 1. Orange!

I grew up in wartime and had never seen a real orange until my brother and I were given one each by a convoy of US troops. I shall never forget that wonderful first taste!

## 2. Wedding

A very special day some 57 years ago when Terry and I got married and went to Canada.

## 3. Licence Plate

We moved from Canada to New Jersey where we bought our first car. Although it

was called a compact car, it was actually quite big. I still recall being stuck in a large snowstorm when the heater packed up!

## 4. Silver Bloodhound

My love of dogs has been with me since a toddler. We have both shared this love. In 1972 I bought my first bloodhound that resulted in working on the Bloodhound Club committee, serving as Show Manager for 10 years and qualifying as a Championship Show Judge for bloodhounds. I lost a very young hound in a tragic accident and my husband bought this bloodhound in his memory.

## 5. Badge

In the year 2000 I was honoured to be selected to judge bloodhounds at Crufts. I have had appointments at many shows both here and abroad, but Crufts is the special one and you only ever get to do it once in a lifetime. I also show my own hounds at various venues around the UK.

## 6. Mickey Mouse

One of our grandsons gave this to my husband Terry after hearing that when he was a little boy, he had fallen ill with Scarlet Fever. In those days, children with the disease were isolated in a "Fever Hospital". Terry had taken his favourite Mickey Mouse toy as a comfort. It was taken away from him and destroyed because of contamination fears! Milo (grandson) who was 6 years old at the time, was so disturbed by this sad story that he gave Terry his own Mickey Mouse to keep. It still sits on the shelf over the computer in pride of place, but I don't think Milo will want to take it to University when he goes in September!

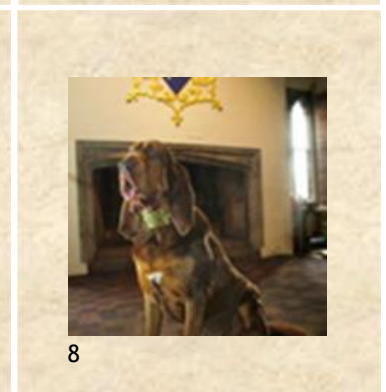
## 7. Benedict Cumberbatch

Owning rather unusual dogs means that one is frequently contacted by film and TV com-

panies when a bloodhound is required. I have had a lot of hours spent in various locations over the years and have lots of funny experiences too. Sometimes the "stars" can be very remote but there are some who are so easy to work with. This was a shoot on Wimbledon Common for Vanity Fair Magazine. We took two bloodhounds and there were a lot of pictures taken. Bloodhounds do tend to slobber especially if they are hot. The main worry on that occasion was to ensure that no slobber managed to escape onto Benedict's costume and that he was holding them without being pulled over. (They weigh 50 kilos each)! He was utterly charming throughout, also very funny and thanked us for coming too. My friends and family were positively GREEN with envy when they discovered who we had spent the day with!

## 8. Dog Collar

Am cheating a little on this photo! The brass dog collar does not belong to me, unfortunately! Murphy, one of my bloodhounds wore this at a photo shoot at Leeds Castle. The collar is from the Antique Dog Collar Museum there. Murphy had to model it in the Queen's Bedroom in front of a roaring log fire. When the museum's curator arrived with this precious artefact and proceeded to unwrap the layers of tissue paper, I could see immediately that it would not fit around Murphy's large neck. We had to improvise with a length of string and finally it was in place. However, Murphy suddenly put his head down like a horse and the beautiful collar fell to the stone floor with a resounding clang! My guess is that the poor curator probably aged 10 years in that moment! Luckily there was no damage and so the shoot went well.



# All I can do is think about you



**Geoff Sullivan**

A short story from the pen of one of our rising stars

Elizabeth,

I know I promised to wait until you contacted me, but I am worried, so worried. Please forgive me if this letter causes problems, But I don't know what else I can do? All I can do is think about you.

Remember the beach that early morning when we met? You were walking just in front of me along the same empty stretch of sand. That wind was bad remember, we were fighting against the warm sea breezes, our clothes pressed tight against our bodies, hair pushed back as though jets behind us? Suddenly that rogue wave soaked us, you stumbled and I grabbed you. And then it happened.

Your body, your face, your eyes immediately stunned me and my nerves cascaded into a shivering mess in seconds and limbs trembled so much I could barely even look at you. You touched me so gently and instinctively I kissed you, ran my fingers across your face, fingertips on cool skin. I know I sound so puerile and pathetic, a juvenile smitten, but it was perfect, so perfect.

From that day we spent every waking hour together, only parting when you returned to your room, wherever it might have been as you never let me go with you. And those days went so quickly, seven, eight, nine and ten and though we had only known each other for those ten days I never wanted to be parted from you, I wanted us to be joined forever. I knew you felt the same. Remember the waiter at that restaurant, Le Vin D'Or, where we would sit for hours just talking? He thought we were newly-weds and gave us

free champagne? It was that obvious, even to him.

Then on the eleventh day you flew home. That afternoon I went back to the restaurant, just as your plane must have just been taking off, but the waiter wasn't there, in fact they had changed everything around for some reason. Anyway I drank alone, had a drink to you and when I got back to the hotel I composed a romantic email although I didn't send it of course, I am not that foolish.

What I want to say is, yes I know it is a delicate and I promised not to put you under any pressure, have you told him yet and how did he take it? I know you went on about it only being ten days since we met, but I am so sure, really sure that you are the one person that I want to be with and he really does need to know about us, it would be unfair otherwise. I am not sure how he has or will take it and it will hurt him, really hurt. It makes me feel guilty, but then the same thing has happened to me, so in a way that equals things out. My first wife left me for another man, of course there always had to be another man.

Anyway, let's not dwell on that. You know the two main things that I really like about you? Firstly, it is your kindness to others and not wanting to hurt anyone. You told me that you didn't want to taint on your soul, odd thing to say I know, but do I agree. You didn't even let me to take you to the airport; I knew it was in case there was someone on the flight who knew your husband, which shows how sensitive you are to others' feelings. The other main thing I like is your air of mystery, almost ethereal. I still don't know why you were in Majorca, although I could tell that you must have wanted to get away and find time to think things over. Thank goodness you did.

Of course I didn't press or pry too much as it was private, not that it mattered. The only thing that matters is us, being together. That said, why didn't you telephone me as you promised. "As soon as I get home" you told me, but nothing, absolutely nothing. And that is why I ... well you probably know by now. Look I was so worried, you had been gone three days and I couldn't wait any longer and that is why I decided to call, thank goodness I had your mobile number. I didn't want to put you on the spot or anything, just ask if all was well to ease my mind. I knew it was going to be expensive, but it would be worth it. I was bloody nervous though ... but determined.

As your phone rang I remember thinking that at least you had got home as the ringing tone was that familiar the English tone, but then, a strange voice, a male voice, I knew it must be him.

Don't worry I told him that I was from the hotel and only wanted to know if you had got home safely on Friday and whether you had any comments about your holiday. But he shouted abuse and slammed the phone down, I just don't get it? The man must be deranged. He told me he would kill me, get the police to arrest me if I called again, told



## Final Curtain: Mark Waterfield 1967 - 2016



Last Friday (16th September) a group of dear friends and players came to pay their respects to the memory of Mark Waterfield. As a family we were active members of the Meopham Players, pretty much since we first moved to the area. Elsa, the youngest was only six months when we arrived. She's now 17. Mark and I separated about six years ago but we did our best to stay on good terms, despite the difficulties that divorce can bring. When I saw those familiar faces at the back of the chapel, having to stand because all the seats were taken (it was literally packed to the rafters, always a good sign as any player will tell you) I faltered for a moment. Would I be able to do my reading? Yes I would. Those good people would help me. I know how much Mark was respected, as an actor and as a person. John Winsome shared his own splendid reading and my heartfelt thanks go out to him and in fact to everyone who came. I apologise for not getting round to speaking to everyone. At times I found it difficult but I did want you to know that it meant a great deal to us to have you there. I hope to see you again, likely with a programme in our hands and a seat at the next production.

*Much love, Melanie Benn, Heather and Elsa*

# Words, words, words

**Terry Fairhead**



We must speak because we are incapable of keeping silent

Can you imagine," Gladys asked, "having the freedom to pickle a rat if you wanted to?"

We were sitting in the *Flamingo* night club, having just completed one bingo session and waiting for the next to start, when she came out with this. Actually, we had been coming here for years, not at night, you understand; only when the club opened its doors during the daytime for us old dears – as they liked to call us – in order to make a bit more dosh.



"I'm sure you have the freedom now if you really wanted to do such a disgusting thing. I'm not sure you'd be very popular though." Even as I spoke I realised how prim I must have sounded.

"Oh come now, Mavis, haven't you ever wanted to do something outrageous?" She looked at me more closely as she spoke. "Oh you must have done. I mean someone who has the nerve to wear all that tatty bling you have rattling about



your person, must have had thoughts about doing something really naughty at some time or another.

"Like what?"

"Oh, I don't know. Let me think... What about jumping on the back of a policeman and asking him to give you a piggy-back?"



"Is that outrageous?" I asked

That got her. She sounded shocked that I wasn't.

"Well, what do you think is then?"

"Running around Stonehenge stark naked during the summer solstice in 1960."

Gladys stared at me open-mouthed with eyes the size of saucers. "You did that?"



"I might have," I said cooly. "Mind you, it's not in the same class as pickling rats though."

## Meantime Brewery Visit

12 November



John Winson has arranged a visit to the Meantime Brewery Tasting Rooms to prove that he can organise the Proverbial In A Brewery.

Fresh beers on draught, straight from the maturation tank to your glass, can be sampled at the rooms. Coach from Meopham at 4.30pm : Tasting session between 6-8.30pm followed by meal

More info : [jwinson1955@icloud.com](mailto:jwinson1955@icloud.com)

## Christmas Social Meal



The Players' Christmas Social Meal this year will be on 7 December, at Three Daws Riverside Inn. Open to non-members and members, email John Ogden to make your booking: [john@looking-forward.co.uk](mailto:john@looking-forward.co.uk)

# Pottham Regional Amateur Theatre Society



Matt Dallas 2016