

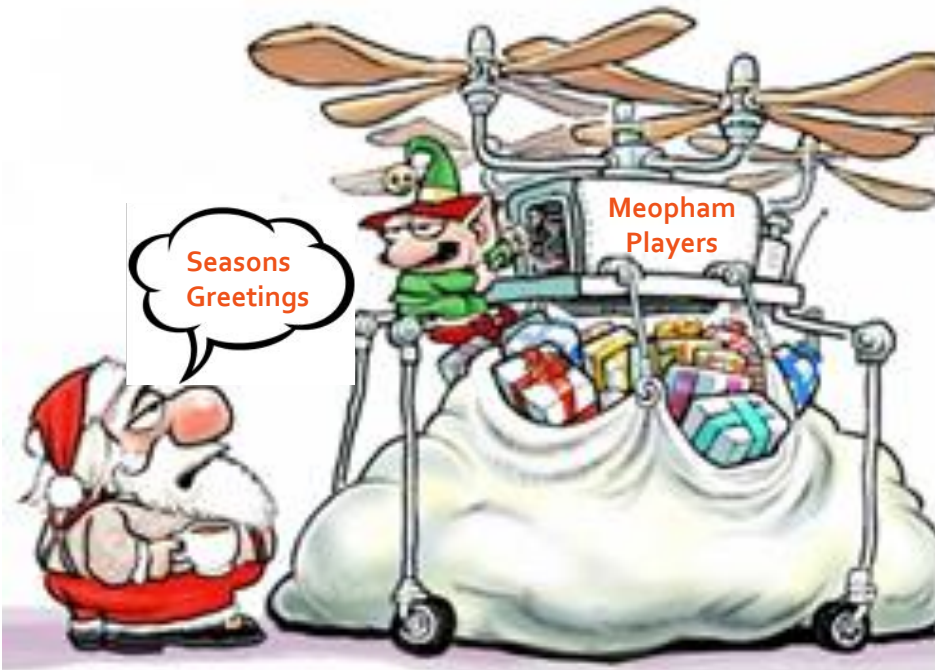


# Meopham Players Newsletter

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Dec 2016 & Jan 2017/ issue 28

## Reindeer get hump as Santa goes HiTech



## The Magic Dolls Panto 2017

As announced last month the next production on 26, 27 & 28 January 2017 will be The Magic Dolls. written by the late Dickie Kagan and spritely Henry Roberts. The production is a joint venture between Meopham Players and Act One and will play at Meopham Village Hall and subsequently at the Community Centre, New Ash Green.

This will be a first for the Players and music will be provided by Sylvia Mann on keyboard.

**The Magic Dolls: Meopham Village Hall  
26, 27 & 29 January 2017**



### Elfie Selfie

Santa's single-sleigh approach is outmoded and inefficient and is about to be brought into the 21st Century, writes our *National Elf Service* correspondent,

A partnership with GoogleSoft has led to the development of an automated long range delivery service which will be used for the first time by Santa this year. Recipients will be able to choose an hourly slot to take delivery safe in the knowledge that it won't arrive at that time.

This has led the Elpers to down hooves and a Mr Rude-Elph, the leader of the gang known as 'Rednose' to his muckers, tweeted

*'Brothers, Grotto mass sit-in to continue until the Fat Man sings, since he does \*\*\*\*all else'.*

A spokesperson explained that Mr Santa works all year round to make gifts for all the nice boys and girls but he only has 24 hours to deliver all of them. He has marvellous magic and omnipresence but he is struggling more and more to keep pace with the population explosion and his sleigh is hampered by global warming.

The new SantaWeb, powered by Artificial Neuronal Network, detects nice or naughty children while they sleep, feeds the data into Deep Thought, the world's most powerful supercomputer and presents are sent by Amazon NotNeeded Logistics, as they already have access to everybody's house and are used to delivering random things that you didn't know you had ordered.



Dame Kurtan Razor together with all the contributors to the Newsletter wish all our readers a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We would also like to thank you for your magnificent support in 2016 by turning out in such large numbers for the last two productions. *Please note that this is the is a joint December and January bumper issue and that the next Newsletter will be emailed early February.*

## Seasonal Greetings

There's always a sadness, when friends  
Just Move away  
There's a reason we miss them,  
Nearly every day.  
A problem they could answer, or  
You miss them in the street.  
A tolling bell reminds you,  
And at meetings you don't meet.  
You have to re-adjust your thoughts,  
Again and yet again,  
Was it your fault you must wonder  
As you shelter from the rain.  
And then the thought occurs to you,  
Coming through the pain,  
It's probable that our loss, will be  
Someone else's gain

*I would like to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a very prosperous New Year. I look forward to seeing you all either on stage/backstage or in the Village Hall during 2017. Let's make the most of our renewed activities. ALL THE BEST*

**Henry Roberts, Meopham Players President**



There were twenty-one of us at the Three Daws, Gravesend on Wednesday evening, 7 December, for what turned out to be a happy and joyful occasion. I think most of us had forgotten what we'd ordered beforehand, but John Ogden who had organised everything impeccably knew (because he had a little list) and so was able to direct the serving staff to the appropriate recipient. Our chairman, Sylvia, proposed a toast to the future of the Players which the previous couple of years of difficulty had perhaps threatened. It had been a difficult time, she said, but with the influx of new members we could look forward with optimism.

I am sure we all enjoyed the evening, but speaking personally I have to say that though the service was excellent, I don't think the food was. I must emphasise that I am certainly no gourmet but I would have to give presentation of the courses *null points*. As to the food itself all I can say is I will not be going to The Three Daws for a meal again anytime soon.

## What to see, what to do...



### Ima Starstruck

Our Showbiz Correspondent with her ear to the keyhole & pulse to the iPhone

#### January 2017

**Auditions for 'Dead Guilty' 4 Jan-** A four hander with fascinating roles for three women and a young man in his teens or early



twenties. Further details from the director, Eileen Bush: [eileenbush9@gmail.com](mailto:eileenbush9@gmail.com)

**The Magic Dolls** - 'Oh, yes it is' - the Player's Panto is back and it's what you have been waiting for 26, 27 & 28 January

#### March 2017

**Brick Lane Visit** to the St. Patrick's Day event. The price will be £49.50 for the dinner plus the cost of the coach. Numbers are restricted to 16 by the size of the minibus, unless there is enough interest for a 23 seater. Further info from Lesley Boycott:

[lbboycott@btinternet.com](mailto:lbboycott@btinternet.com)

#### May 2017

**Annual Treasure Hunt**—a time to tax the little grey cells whilst learning something about London, arranged by Lesley Boycott: [lbboycott@btinternet.com](mailto:lbboycott@btinternet.com)

#### June 2017

**Brick Lane Visit**—the second visit for the 25th Anniversary Event, details to follow and if interested contact Lesley Boycott: [lbboycott@btinternet.com](mailto:lbboycott@btinternet.com)

### Meopham Players

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# What's in a name?

## Terry Fairhead



'A rose by any other name would smell as sweet' is frequently quoted but would Maurice White have cut the mustard, asks our distinguished *Arts Correspondent*

In the old days – and I'm talking now about the Hollywood film studios of the Thirties and Forties – no one who appeared on the silver screen seemed to believe his or her real name was an asset; or at least the publicity departments of those studios didn't.

In some cases it would be hard to dispute. Would John Wayne, for instance, be considered such a tough guy had he stuck with his real name of Marion Mitchell Morrison? "Get off your horse and drink your milk," would never have had the same sense of menace.

Similarly, would Rita Hayworth have become such a seductive icon had she used her

Judy Garland was born Francis Gumm



Edda Kathleen van Heemstra Hepburn-Ruston or Audrey Hepburn, you choose?

real name of Margarita Carmen Cansino? And how about Frances Gumm (Judy Garland); Frederick Austerlitz (Fred Astaire); Archibald Alexander Leach (Cary Grant) and Lucille LeSueur (Joan Crawford)?



He became a Centenarian in December, but how would he have fared as Issur Danielovitch Demsky instead of his assumed name of Kirk Douglas?

This went on into the Sixties and Seventies as the film industry continued to pander to the Anglo-Saxons. Issur Danielovitch Demsky became Kirk Douglas (father of Michael); Leroy Harold Scherer Jr. became Rock Hud-

son, Edda Kathleen van Heemstra Hepburn-Ruston became Audrey Hepburn; Allen Konigsberg became Woody Allen and Ramon Antonio Gerard Estevez became Martin Sheen.



Helen Mirren but her birth certificate said Ilyena Lydia Vasiliievna Mironov

And in case you are thinking this is an American thing, just be aware that the very English Helen Mirren had Ilyena Lydia Vasiliievna Mironov on her birth certificate, while Ben Kingsley is really Krishna Pandit Bhanji.

As to Maurice Micklewhite... well I'll leave you to take an educated guess, but remember: "You were only supposed to blow the bloody doors off."



## Pottham Regional Amateur Theatre Society By Matt Dallas



Matt Dallas 2016