



# Meopham Players Newsletter

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

August 2017/ issue 35

## October production of Dead Guilty by Richard Harris

Eileen Bush  
Director



**R**hearsals are going well and we have 2 new members in the cast, Jan Coombs and Paul Tomkies, both very experienced actors, plus almost new member Maureen Gardner who has never acted before. She told me she really enjoys being murdered! The fourth character is being played by Brenda Ogden, a great actor who does not need any introduction. Voice of Coroner is being recorded by another actor I happen to know and hope we can lure into our web!

The very busy sound effects are being compiled by retired BBC sound engineer

Andrew Coulson and operated by Sylvia Harmer who has done us proud on previous productions. Stage Management is in the safe hands of Rodney Buckland. Prompt is the ever reliable Diana Dixon and props will be the domain of the efficient Anne Horrocks. I hope Graem Horrocks will take on lighting.

This has all the makings of a very good and happy production.

Unusually for Meopham, this production will open on WEDNESDAY 25TH and close on FRIDAY 27TH Oct. There will NOT be a performance on Sat 28th Oct.

## What to do, what to



Ima Starstruck

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

## AGM Annual General Meeting

September 2017

6 September  
Meopham Players AGM

The Committee is going through a rejuvenation this year and seeking a Chairman, Newsletter Editor, Publicity Manager & Box Office Manager.

Email Sylvia Stickings at:  
[ssupersylv@aol.com](mailto:ssupersylv@aol.com)

## PRATS & the Newsletter

**P**ottham Regional Amateur Theatre Society better known as PRATS, which chronicles the antics of a not too unfamiliar amateur dramatics society has turned two with this issue.

24 editions of PRATS & 35 of Newsletter brings an era to an end



Matt Dallas through the medium of the comic strip has highlighted the hilarious idiosyncrasies of the world of amdram, deflating egos with a smile and a sweep of his brushstroke.

This edition also marks three years of the revamped Newsletter and brings the end of an era. Dame Kurtan Razor, Ima Starstruck and Salvador Dalek now household names have finally succumbed to eye-watering six-figure sums on offer from the BBC. So with the postie 'We've upped our income, up yours' they're off to live the life of Riley.



7 December 2017

Meopham Players Christmas Dinner for friends & family at the Three Daws.

February 2018  
22, 23, 24 February

Festive Fun with the Meopham Players production of the Jungle Book .

October 2018

25, 26 & 27 October Autumn production of Dead Guilty which runs Wednesday to Friday (no Saturday performance).

# Swan Song

## Breaking news: the past year in front page headlines



70 years of the Plays



Quartet good to go



Quartet plays to packed houses



Festive fun with Santa's drone deliveries



Magic Dolls reboot hits the spot



March production shelved



Murder most foul



Music Hall capers



Docklands Treasure Hunt



Jungle Book Auditions



PRATS is two and the Newsletter is three



# The Last Refuge of a Scoundrel



Terry Fairhead

The whole process of patriotism is a form of brain-washing

I would like to say at the outset I have no desire to belong to any other nation. I regard myself as incredibly fortunate to have been born in this country with all its freedoms and rights and culture. However, the thing I would like to put in Room 101 is patriotism.

Shock! Horror!

Maybe it would help if I understood it; maybe if someone could explain to me why it is so wonderful to successfully wage war on some other tribe and regard it as something glorious, I might possibly comprehend. I doubt it though for the very notion of patriotism depends for its existence on denigrating every other nation on earth.

"Deutschland, Deutschland uber alles" for example – and we all know what that led to.

Patriotism depends too on generalizing about other nations' characteristics. The French for example are all, in the



Patriotism depends on stereotyping: The French, according to Homer Simpson, are 'cheese eating surrender monkeys' whereas the rest of the world regards Americans as arrogant, boastful and loud

words of the American cartoon character, Homer Simpson, "cheese-eating surrender monkeys"; while the Americans themselves are regarded by the rest of the world as arrogant, boastful and loud. And yet all we really know about other nations is that they are populated by human beings like ourselves albeit with varying measures of hope and despair; love and hate; reason and dogma; compassion and cruelty. What is different is the nature of the people who govern and it is those people who have the most to gain from a sense of patriotism engendering as it does the belief in "my country, right or wrong".

The whole process of patriotism is a form of brain-washing – backed up with a little historical distortion – which is strong enough to make men rise up out of their trenches and charge at lines of machine guns facing them. But perhaps the worst thing is that once hostilities have ceased the future of the men who

have done the fighting and dying for their country is by no means secure; the returning heroes will not necessarily find themselves overwhelmed with the gratitude of their leaders. Witness the crews of the English ships that fought against the Spanish Armada who, on their return to England, were dismissed without pay because the treasury couldn't afford it. And in case one should think that was a long time ago and therefore irrelevant to the modern era, witness Churchill's failure to even mention Bomber Command in his post-victory address for fear of offending post-war sensibilities despite that service having lost over 50,000 of its aircrew.

No doubt, had I been old enough, I would have gone off to war with my friends, seduced by the idea of duty to King and country, but now I am old and useless I can see patriotism for the shameless harlot it is and happily consign it to Room 101.

## Pottham Regional Amateur Theatre Society By Matt Dallas



Matt Dallas 2017