



Meopham Players

Newsletter

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Maureen Gardner watched *The New New Jungle Book* and remembered Kiplings' Words from the original story:

"For the strength of the pack is the wolf and the strength of the wolf is the pack."

Joseph Rudyard Kipling himself would have been delighted with this production of *Jungle Book*, directed by John Winson and Louise Banks. The stage had been moved down into the hall with camouflage netting used to good effect to create a jungle scene, with the choir, Sylvia Stickings, Margaret Winson, Joan David and not forgetting Rodney Buckland artfully hidden at one end. Sound and lighting were in the capable hands of Anne and Graeme Horrocks.

duet with Baloo, played by the hugely talented Matt Dallas was utterly charming. His proud grandma told me he wants to go to drama school when old enough. This lad can act, sing beautifully and has energy in abundance.

realised she would have to give up Mowgli to his birth mother.

Natalie Golder, Maddie Holden, and ten year old James Banks were our very cheeky monkeys/wolves - great energy from these three. Louise Banks not only co-directed but gave a lovely performance as Akela, leader of the wolf pack, who realises she is becoming too old, and the Law of the Jungle is that she must die.

Kaa played by Emily Stickles was superb, ooh! Emily, so hypnotic, so mesmerising, what a sexy ssssnake you were. Poor Baloo didn't stand a chance did he under your spell, following you around in a trance, eyes all a swivel - hilarious.



MOWGLI - OLIVER DUEBEL

Mowgli, played by the heartbreakingly cute and funny Oli Duebel, who had never been on stage before was outstanding. His dance



SHERE KHAN - RICHARD ROWE

Richard Rowe a new member to Meopham Players, was very impressive as the dangerous Shere Khan whose only wish is to kill Mowgli. I shall look forward to seeing Richard perform in his next role with us. Sophie Dallas as Raksha and Jessica Dallas as Messua both sang hauntingly and played their roles with a mature sensitivity. Who could fail to be moved when Raksha

S Sangha played the loyal protective Bagheera, who knows it is time for Mowgli to return to the man village, but they must return to the jungle one final time. The finale with the cast and choir singing "Jungle Law" was splendid, but the night belonged to the children for their talent and energy, well done you were all amazing .



Freda Stare, our Moving Arts correspondent, meets Bishop Gondolph and is delighted.

I have to be honest; when I heard Eileen Bush had engaged a troupe of Morris Dancers to perform for us at the February Monthly Meeting in the Village Hall I was not sure what to expect. I mean, I know a bit about country dancing - I loved *Riverdance* for example - but I'm not sure I was exactly looking forward to what I thought would be on offer on that Wednesday evening.

How wrong I was for it was an absolutely splendid evening. The dances were performed with great gusto and expertise, although the latter quality may have been lost to some extent when a few of the Players - the braver ones - joined in.



This how it was supposed to be



This - not so much



And then -
By George, I think they got it.



And the band played on

It was so much fun, whether you were taking part or - like me - just watching. And so energetic, even for the watchers.

So, thank you Eileen for bringing the Bishop Gondolph Morris Dancers to Meopham and providing us with such great entertainment. I can confirm that everyone left the hall that evening with a smile on their faces.



The audience enjoyed it...



...as did those doing freestyle

Poppy Cock's Column



Hello Darlings,

As ever I have lots to tell you and so little space, but here goes:

First thing is our next super production in May, **FLARE PATH** needs someone back stage to be our PROPS person so if you or anyone you know would like to volunteer please give the editor (whoever he is) a ring on **01474 812405**

Now, for things coming up:-
Our **March Monthly Meeting**

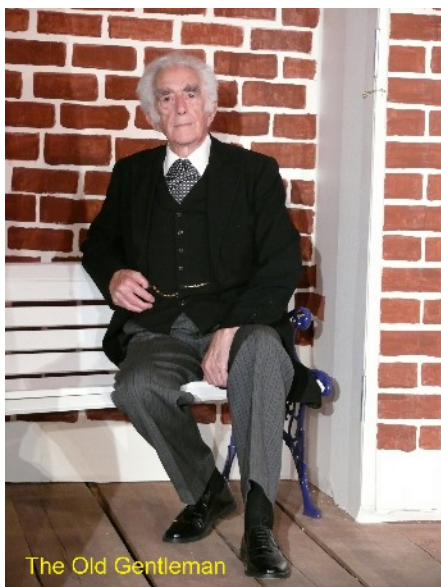
will be on **Wednesday 7th** when we hope to be having play readings to decide what to put on for the **October** production. However, Eileen who was going to organise it is not well at the moment and may not be at the meeting. Nevertheless, we are planning to proceed with the idea, but we may have to fall back on having a quiz evening instead - or maybe even both. Exciting or what?

The only next date I can be precise about at the moment is the **April Monthly Meeting**

which will be on the 4th. What we will be doing is not yet decided, but maybe, if rehearsals are going well, we might get a sneak preview of an act from **Flare Path**. Nobody's said anything, but it is a possibility - we've done it in the past.

Then, on **Thursday, Friday and Saturday, 24th, 25th and 26th May** we will be performing **Flare Path** directed by Paul Doust.

Also in May we are hoping to organise another treasure hunt in London. More details next time. No room for anything else - **I need a bigger column.**



The Old Gentleman

News about Henry

As many of you will already know, The President (and I don't mean the bald one in the White House) has gone through a bit of a torrid time recently. He is now back from hospital after having undergone an operation to repair a broken hip. At the time of writing, Joy has arranged for assistance to help with looking after him. Also, kind

neighbours have cleared the snow from the path and the District Nurse visits each day, so he's getting lots of attention, which is as it should be. We'll keep you posted as regards progress and the operation of the newly installed stair-lift. Meanwhile, I am sure I can speak for everyone in wishing Henry a speedy recovery and hope we will see him again soon presiding over Players activities.



AND ANOTHER THING.

Hello again Darlings, Poppy here with a completely new idea. Well it wasn't actually entirely mine, it was the result of an editorial meeting - just the editor and me - so it was half mine. Which means if it is a success he'll claim the credit, but if it's a failure it will have been all my fault.

Men, eh?

Anyway, what we thought was some of you might like to comment on something you've loved or hated in the newsletter. If you would, send me - Poppy Cock - an email headed **Newsletter comment to:**

meophamplayers@aol.com

Pottham Regional Amateur Theatre Society



Matt Dallas 2018

The Editor contemplates the words of Milton: *They Also Serve Who Only Stand and Wait*

This phrase has tripped off many, many tongues over a very long period of time in circumstances not always appropriate to the original sentiment.

It is older than most people probably realise, being the last line of John Milton's sonnet, *On His Blindness*, in which the poet realises God's indifference to the works of man. This, so Milton's argument suggests, means those unable to do any more than stand among the righteous can also serve God.

As with many sayings it has been misused over the course of time, if not actually corrupted. It was quite popular during the last war when people stood in seemingly endless queues waiting to be served by shopkeepers who had very little to sell. It was sometimes the response made by the

lazy when questioned about their job prospects and it was probably an ever present thought in the minds of peace-time servicemen on guard duty in the middle of the night.

It seems to me though that this saying could as well be applied to things as much as to people; perhaps even more so. This thought struck me as I walked along the road passing car after car parked and empty. They were not being used; they were sitting quietly – repositories of their owners' belongings – waiting to be used. The same applies to almost everything we possess, from cutlery to television sets. Nothing is in use all the time, with the possible exception of smart phones and, hopefully, my pace-maker.

So there you have it, most of us – people and things –

are not doing anything for quite a lot of the time, but we are consoled by the thought we are ready to serve should the call come.

Well, some of us are at any rate.

And finally...

Have you taken a look at our web site recently?

www.meophamplayers.co.uk

It is well worth a look, not just for booking seats when we have a production on the go, but for all sorts of other information about us, such as what's in the pipeline; who does what; blasts from the past; carousels of pictures from various plays; where to find us; how to make contact; libraries of past newsletters and of Matt Dallas cartoons. All this regularly updated by our in-house genius, Rodney Buckland. And soon we hope to include videos of past plays, so watch this space.