



Meopham Players

Newsletter

www.meophamplayers.co.uk

e: meophamplayers@aol.com

July/August 2018 Issue 44

MEOPHAM PLAYERS OCTOBER PRODUCTION
will be

Breath of Spring

by PETER COKE

Directed by ANNE HORROCKS



Synopsis:

When Dame Beatrice is given a mink stole by her maid, she is reminded of the maid's shady past and immediately suspects that it was stolen from the the next flat. A former army officer and other lodgers endeavour to return the stole. The plan is devised with care and all of them take such delight in the secretive scheme that they wonder why they don't do this more often. They form a syndicate for stealing and returning furs. Everything goes well until a loss is reported and the police come charging in. The maid is horrified to discover what has been going on behind her back, but agrees to employ her talents to bail the amateurs out of trouble if they agree to never touch another fur. She succeeds, the police leave, and life returns to its humdrum ways until someone remembers that it was only furs they had promised not to touch!

THE CAST

Miss Nanette Parry

DIANA DIXON

Brigadier Albert Rayne

DAVID ALEXANDER

Lily Thompson

SYLVIA STICKINGS

Lady Alice Miller

MAUREEN GARDNER

Dame Beatrice Appleby

BRENDA OGDEN

Miss Elizabeth Hatfield

LINDA O'BYRNE

Pape

JOHN WINSON

Kemp

RODNEY BUCKLAND

HELP!

Rehearsals have begun and the show is coming together. However, we do need volunteers for some of the backstage positions as well as for the vital job of Prompt.

If you can help out in any way, Anne would be very pleased to hear from you on any of the following:-

Home: 01474 746081

Mobile: 07747 752276

Email:
aehorrocks1@hotmail.co.uk

Poppy Cock's column



No Poppy this month as she is on holiday in the States either Pole Dancing or

Pole Jumping - we're not sure which - but we know it is in the Los Angeles area. In the meantime we have managed to persuade our dance correspondent, Freda Stare (inset above) to stand in for her.

Hello everyone; Freda here. It is very nice to have this opportunity to contribute to the newsletter again - first time since February actually. But who's counting?

Anyhow, first up is a request from Anne for props for her October play, *Breath of Spring*. She needs any number of fake furs, that is stoles, jackets, coats, etc. If you have any such that you would be prepared to lend us, perhaps you would be kind enough to contact Anne by any of the means listed on Page 1. Anything you offer will be well looked after and returned to you after the play has finished.

Now, our first production of the New Year will be performed on 24th, 25th and 26th January 2019; a pantomime written specially for us by a young, very promising playwright of great charm and intelligence, Percy Veerance - actually, I've never heard of him, but I managed to get hold of his CV, and it's all in there so it must be true. Anyway, it is called *Alan Din and his Wonderful Magic Lamp* and will be produced and directed by Linda O'Byrne. Auditions will be held at the Monthly Meeting in October and we would encourage as many people as possible to come forward. We will want lots of singers, so if it is something you've never done before but would like to try, this will be your opportunity. Just remember, anyone can sing and you won't be on your own. Dancers will be wanted too. Again you won't be on your own and the routines will be simple, as will be the music with such singable numbers as: *Lambeth Walk*, *Underneath the Arches* and *I'm Getting Married in the Morning*. Don't worry if you are not a member; we can sign you up after the audition if you are successful. The

main thing to remember is that this will be a FUN production with lots of laughs - some even on the production nights.

The next production after that will be in **May** when Diana Dixon and Maureen Gardner will be directing *Nobody's Perfect* by Simon Williams. More on this next time.

Social Events

Saturday 1st September
Matinee performance of *Othello* at The Globe. Brenda still has one ticket available so if you'd like to see it please contact her on
01474 812745 or
nanaogg99@gmail.com.

Wed 5th September
Monthly Meeting AND the AGM. Now I realise those 3 letters can create feelings akin to that of a child having to take some distasteful substance on the grounds that it is good for him, but you do really need to come. Most of the offices will probably be filled by the current incumbents so there is no need to fear you might get roped in against your will. And as an incentive, I'll see if the committee is willing to splash out on some cheese and wine. Oh! And it won't take long.

(Continued on page 3)

Poppy Cock's Column (continued from page 2)

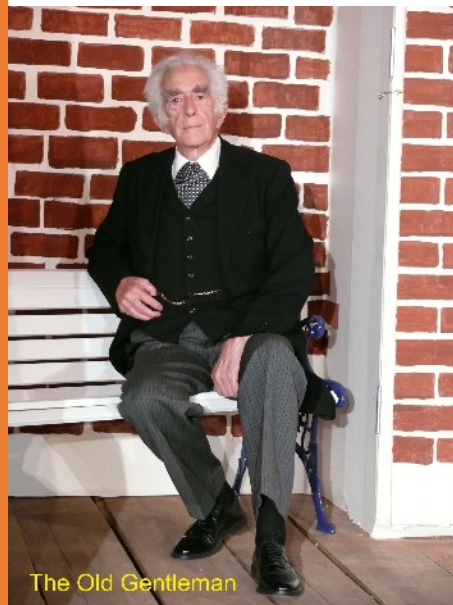
Wed 3rd October
Monthly Meeting and
Auditions for *Alan Din
and his Wonderful Magic
Lamp*.



8th to 10th November
According to the
Gravesham deputy mayor,
Rainham Amateur
Theatre Society (RATS) is
producing a World War 1
Centenary show which
will include poems,
sketches, songs and a
short extract from *Oh
What a Lovely War* with
a seat price of £10.50 per
person. HOWEVER, an
avid search of the web
site makes no mention of
it. But not to worry, by
the time the September
newsletter comes out I'm
sure we'll be better
informed. So, watch this
space.

In the meantime, that's
all for now. In the next
issue, Poppy's column
will be written by Poppy
herself, unless her return
is delayed. If it is, then
I'm sure I could make
myself available. So
perhaps I'll be back.

THE OLD GENTLEMAN COMES HOME



The Old Gentleman

As many of you will know,
Henry - still our revered
President - was rushed off
to hospital during the
recent (and current) bout
of very hot weather with
what is technically known
as A Funny Turn. He was
there for a few days, with
Joy at his side for much
of the time, during which
he was examined,
prodded and connected
up to devices that go
BEEP! all the time.
Tedious but necessary,
we assume. But he is
home now, sitting in his
own chair, sipping quietly
at a single malt.

It is perhaps worth
recording that at the end
of June, just a short time
before his illness, Henry
celebrated his 97th
birthday with his family,
which includes his grand-
children and great grand-
children. So, although the

June newsletter went out
too early to celebrate the
fact, we're not going to
let a little thing like it
occurring over a month
ago to stop us now
wishing Henry a belated

**MANY
HAPPY
RETURNS
OF THE DAY**



As most of you reading this
will know, Eileen is very ill so
it occurred to me it might not
be a bad thing, through the
newsletter, to let her know
we are thinking about her and
that we hold her in great
affection and respect.
Throughout her adult life, she
has been a staunch proponent
of Amateur Dramatics and we
at Meopham Players recognize
our great good fortune that
she chose to join us in 2007
since when, at various times,
she not only undertook nearly
every post on the committee,
she directed and acted in
some of our best productions.
Much love to you, Eileen.

Terry Fairhead



PENNY PINCHING

Ponders Generalisation

“When a day that you happen to know is Wednesday starts off sounding like Sunday, there is something seriously wrong somewhere.”

That is the first line of John Wyndham’s wonderfully imaginative, brilliantly written novel: *The Day of the Triffid’s*.

In just a single brief sentence, he alerts the reader to feel unsettled; to feel he has suddenly found himself in a mysterious world which no longer follows any rules. But is it true to life?

The thing that occurs to me, having reached the age when I have great difficulty in being sure of anything, is that such an observation is surely dependent on context. For example, if you were living in a flat overlooking Oxford Street in the 1950s then there would undoubtedly have been a noticeable difference. In those days, when commercial traffic was limited to a few busses running a restricted service, most of the shops and offices would have been closed on a Sunday

In such a place and at such a time it might well have been possible to distinguish between Sunday and a weekday purely by sound alone. But what if you lived in a quiet country village in a very quiet lane? You might hear church bells pealing on a Sunday, but apart from that there would probably be very little difference.

So, what Wyndham was providing us with - for the very

good reason of setting a scene - is a generalisation which, as with all such, is not always apt, or true.

As a species, we make the mistake of using generalisations all the time and The Media encourages us to do so. Thus, we can dismiss communities - whole countries even - with some derogatory description.

Sometimes, especially if you are not the target, they can be quite amusing, as with Homer Simpson’s description of the French being “*cheese-eating surrender monkeys*”. But more often - too often - they are used to create dissent and even hatred.

Perhaps the worst thing about a generalisation is that it can be held to be true even though we may not personally have had any contact with the group, person or thing to which it is applied. Which means we don’t actually have to investigate any further or do anything energetic to establish the veracity - or otherwise - of any particular derogatory label.

I mean we know - don’t we - that all rough sleepers are lazy, good-for-nothing, work shy scroungers? But how many of us have bothered to discover why they are where they are?

It’s the same with immigrants; they are all here to take our jobs; plunder our National Health Service and groom our young women for goodness-knows-what; aren’t they? And as for all those Moslems in their fancy temples, well, everyone knows they’re just a bunch of Jihadists plotting the destruction and overthrow of the Western world.

But perhaps we should not just accept so lazily what someone

else has defined for us and perhaps we should consider what such acceptance might lead to, particularly if it is applied by some charismatic leader with a glib turn of phrase. Perhaps, years ago, in that brief period of peace between the First and Second World Wars, we shouldn’t have accepted derogatory epithets like *Yid, Wop, Chink, Pikey and Nigger* so easily.

But then, in those days men were still coming to terms with having given women the vote. The generalisation then was that women just didn’t have the mental capacity of men. And yet somebody came to terms with the fact that they had, because when World War II broke out women were recruited into the Air Transport Auxiliary for the specific purpose of flying various types of military aircraft from factory to airfield. One of these ladies, Mary Ellis, died last week aged 101 and she can be seen in the new documentary, *Spitfire*, telling the story of when she delivered a Vickers Wellington bomber to an RAF airfield and being asked by the ground crew where the pilot was because they didn’t believe it was her until they had first searched the aircraft.

It would be nice to think that we, as a nation, are becoming more enlightened; that we are prepared to question generally accepted norms. And perhaps, since the end of Mary Ellis’s war, we are. But I’m not holding my breath.

AND FINALLY If you would like to nominate someone to serve on the new committee a Proposal Form is attached for you to complete and return to Maureen on:-
Maureenmogardner@aol.com

Meopham Players Committee Member Nomination Form For September 2018 AGM

Dear Meopham Player

Each year at the Meopham Players Annual General Meeting (AGM), we ask members to nominate other members to undertake specific committee member's roles. The Committee is responsible for organising the active programme of social events throughout the year including: productions, social events and the monthly meetings.

If you would like to nominate yourself or a fellow member for any of the Committee roles (with their permission), then please put their name by the side of the Member Role listed below and forward to Emma the Players Secretary echalcraft@gmail.com

Position	Nominee	Proposed by	Seconded by
Chairman			
Vice Chairman			
Secretary			
Treasurer			
Front of House			
Social Secretary			
Webmaster			
Newsletter Pro- ducer			
Publicity Manager			
Box Office Man- ager			
Village Hall Rep- resentative			
Equipment man- ager			
Committee mem- ber			