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Meopham Players Newsletter

ISSUE 7

MAR 2015

Players' Anniversary

Meopham Players to celebrate its 70th Birthday at New College of Cobham



Players Platinum Anniversary Celebration

An invitation from President John Ogden

You may remember that we celebrated our 60th with a formal dinner in 2005 at The New College of Cobham which was a tremendous success.

We intend to repeat that with another formal dinner at the New College (which is NOT Cobham Hall) but a Grade 1 Listed Almshouse, situated behind Cobham Church which is home to some 65 residents.



The dinner will be held in the Hall as last time and we sincerely hope that ALL of our members will support this event. There is a limit of 60 which is the maximum the kitchen can handle, (it was built in the 1400s!)



The Dinner will take place on Saturday June 20th. Full details will be announced when all the final details are settled.



March Monthly Meeting



From the pen of President John Ogden

Members will recall that it was decided that we would use our Monthly meeting in March to go to the cinema to see the Royal Shakespeare Company's production of Love's Labour's Won, better known as Much Ado About Nothing which is being beamed live from the Stratford Theatre stage.

Those of us who went to see the RSC production filmed earlier this month were totally enthralled by the spectacular performances by all the cast and those of us who had seen the production in Stratford at the end of last year were equally impressed by the skilled cinematography and direction as well of course as the brilliant acting.

The two plays with the same cast are set, one in 1914 and the next one in 1918. These unusual settings are used very cleverly and add enormously to the enjoyment of both productions.

We would strongly recommend clearing your diary for 7.00pm Wednesday March 4th and joining us at Cineworld in Strood. You can book on line at the website of 'Cineworld Rochester' and there are concessions for 'seniors'.

I can't wait to see the Dogberry scene in the second half, fantastic theatre! It will be a great evening.

Mysecretlife

JOY ROBERTS, director, actress & long term supporter of the Players both onstage and behind the scenes

Well here goes!

As one lives further into retirement 'weekend' no longer has the same effect as during one's working life.



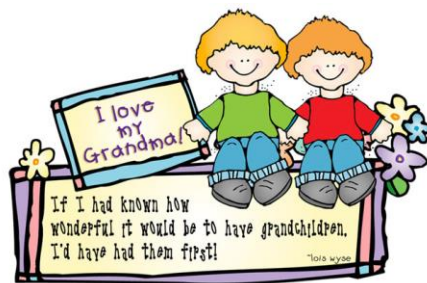
National Trust – Ightham Mote

We used to enjoy staying with friends and visiting National Trust houses and gardens and spending a day at RHS Wisley getting new ideas for the garden.



Wisley butterfly

Nowadays a visit to or from Grandson and Grandaughter and their families with Great grandsons 2, 4 and 6 who thoroughly exhaust us with their energy



MY FAVOURITE THINGS

- ❖ Reading
- ❖ Countdown
- ❖ Telegraph crossword with Henry
- ❖ Sitting in the garden watching the birds
- ❖ Looking for signs of Spring, after the snowdrops, waiting for the buds to appear on the Camellia & the magnolia

Posh Frocks & Bow Ties

By Lesley Boycott

On January 10th twenty-six members and friends donned their bow ties and posh frocks (didn't the men look good?) and were whisked off to Woolwich for the gala evening at the Brick Lane Music Hall.



Once again we enjoyed delightful service from the welcoming glass or two (3 or 4) of bubbly to the well prepared and served meal.

Our seats were the best – as long as we were prepared for the banter from the stage (which of course as Players we were).



Excellent entertainment followed the meal with something for everyone. In fact regular patrons among us thought it was the best so far!

Midnight and out came the bubbly again rounded off with everyone joining in Auld Lang Syne.

Not over yet! Our turn to shine on the dance floor and we took full advantage.

Our trusty and very patient coach driver (Grange Travel of course) saw us all safely home after another great night out

IN SHORT

- ❖ **Herbal Tea or stiff drink?**
Stiff drink
- ❖ **What annoys you?**
Pomposity
- ❖ **Desert island disc?**
Dave Brubeck 'Take Five'
- ❖ **Swanky restaurant or dinner at home?**
In younger days swanky restaurant but now with drink driving at home
- ❖ **Your greatest luxury?**
Champagne & smoked salmon
- ❖ **Best Players Moment?**
Acting -Grandma in 'Family Planning'
Directing-'As You Like It' & 'Dangerous Corner'
- ❖ **Irrational fear?**
Spiders in the bathroom
- ❖ **Which actor most inspires you?**
Judy Dench
- ❖ **What do you love more than anything?**
Cruising holidays
- ❖ **Anything your mother taught you?**
Making Yorkshire puddings

What to do, what to see

Players' monthly events briefing

May Production



Now that the Music Hall has been postponed indefinitely, we will be performing two one act plays in May, 'Panto in Little Frimley' and 'Tango in Little Frimley'. Rehearsals start this week. We are also hoping to have an entry in the Medway festival.

Contact Sylvie Stickings to find out more.

Globe Visit – As You Like It

Brenda has applied for 16 tickets to the production on Saturday 5th Sept max cost of tickets £43 per person, coach costs extra.

Anyone interested to contact Brenda

Treasure Hunt



There is just one ticket left for this popular annual outing scheduled for 21 April this year.

Contact Lesley Boycott

Players' Website

The new web site is now very tentatively under construction. Terry Fairhead managed to persuade his grandson to get control of the levers for us and he now has to find the courage to operate them. We are looking for someone who has the interest & expertise to take on the task of web master and help establish a strong virtual presence.

Terry Fairhead for further info



Bijou Tales of Theatre Folk

By Les Peters

It is the long hot summer of 76 and I was the Stage Manager for the Black and White Minstrels on the Britannia pier in Great Yarmouth.

The Stage Manager was required to be smartly dressed, I worked at the time for Bob Luff and he liked you in a bow tie. I was wearing the tie, but being in a hot theatre with a tin roof, apart from the tie all I was wearing was a pair of pinstripe swimming shorts.



Lenny Henry was on stage when the theatre manager appeared at my side. He informed me that we had received a credible bomb threat, which later turned out to be a hoax, and that we had to evacuate.

Normally the Company Manager in a DJ would make the announcement.

Unfortunately we shared a manager with the 'Little and Large' show in the ABC up the road and he could normally be found in a small tavern about half way between the two theatres.

In his absence I told the Theatre Manager that he would have to do it as he was already dressed for the part but he started shaking, went very pale before telling me that he could not go on in front of all those people.

So dressed in my dickie bow and trunks on I go in front of 1500 people. Unfortunately a very young and

exuberant Mr. Henry thinks it's a wind up and I have to shout in his ear to explain the gravity of the situation.



So we spent the next hour with the Minstrels, Mitchell Maids, Keith Harris, (I hate that duck), Lenny Henry and the Three Monarchs, (If you remember them you are showing your age), standing on a set of wheeled trolleys entertaining 1500 people and quite a few passersby on Great Yarmouth sea front. Thank god it was second house. We needed a few stiff G & T's that night

Players' Recollections

Do you have any tales, amusing or otherwise, about the Players' or any of our productions, meetings or social events?

If so, we would like to hear from you. Please email your recollections, with pics where possible, to the editor and we will try and include them in future editions.

MEOPHAM PLAYERS CONTACTS

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