

THE CHELSFIELD PLAYERS NEWSLETTER

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November 2016

NSFW

"Not Safe For Work" by Lucy Kirkwood.



Philippa Rooke Paul Matthews



Marie Hurdling Andy Haggerty

This production in August was very well received, congratulations to all involved and to Patrick Neylan for his direction. The following are comments from the audience:-

'Saw it last evening. Thoroughly enjoyed a wonderful performance. The text and spontaneity of acting was absolutely first rate'

'Great production. Thoroughly enjoyed myself last night'.

'very professional production' 'I would like to congratulate everyone on a fab production'

'I went to see Chelsfield Players production of NSFW last night –excellent! Such a funny script and brilliantly executed by all the cast, they were amazing and obviously enjoyed this production'.

'I saw the play tonight and would recommend it'.

'A thought provoking, well directed and performed piece'

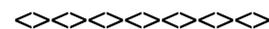
Our Chairman

After her three years as our Chairman, Cynthia is now required to step down at the next AGM in May. Thank you to Cynthia for the enthusiasm, time and energy with which she has fulfilled the role.



We now need to seek out a new Chairman and for those of you who may be interested in the position here are a few "Chairman" like thoughts.

- ✓ The Chairman has the ultimate responsibility for running The Chelsfield Players and ensuring that production targets are set and achieved and that quality is maintained.
- ✓ Create and maintain an adequate organisational structure that ensures the standard of the Chelsfield Players is maintained and improved
- ✓ Work with the support of the secretary and committee to ensure that any organisational 'gaps' are covered.
- ✓ Ensure a fair selection of a play and that all interested parties are able to put forward their ideas
- ✓ Approve the casting
- ✓ Ensure that the current production is of an acceptable standard.



The Autumn Production The Railway Children

Adapted by Mike Kenny

Please note the performances on Thursday 24th, Friday 25th and Saturday 26th November begin at **7.30pm**.

There will also be a Saturday Matinee at **2.30pm** on 26th November

Tickets for **The Railway Children** are selling really well. This is an immense production requiring an enormous amount of construction of things like railway tunnels, bridges etc. and also an enormous amount of learning, acting and Yorkshire accents! Well - sort of Yorkshire accents. This should prove to be a very popular production, involving a great number of the Players. Congratulations to Pat for taking on such a production.

SPOTLIGHT ON Cynthia Hearing



This feels a little bit like ‘This Is Your Life with the Chelsfield Players’. Anyway I will try not to bore you all but here goes...I joined the Chelsfield Players in 1994 at the age of 17. I was studying A-Level Theatre Studies at the time of being discovered by Lestrine Wishart who needed a young girl to play a part in Bedroom Farce. During the dress rehearsal I turned 18 and I remember waiting nervously backstage to go on. My first line of the play was ‘Why are there so many people here?’ to which the response was ‘That’s because it’s a birthday party my darling’. Well that totally confused me! The dress rehearsal was stopped, the birthday celebrations started and instead of a coke in the pub, I was allowed to have my first taste of alcohol!

After my debut, I left the Chelsfield Players to go to university but as I had failed my A-Level Theatre Studies was not able to study Drama. 4 years later in 1998 I returned to the area and re-joined the Chelsfield Players. The play that was in rehearsal was Not Now Darling and I assisted with the props, handing out glasses of champagne and making sure tea towels stayed in place!

Since then I have acted in numerous plays over the last 18 years and have been extremely lucky to play some great roles from a sexy policewoman to a French lesbian to a 12 year old. One of my most recent challenges was to play a real life person and in The Thrill of Love I was fortunate enough to play Ruth Ellis for which I was nominated for Best Actress in the 2016 Bromley Theatre Guild Play Festival.

I was first introduced to directing when I shadowed and assisted Peggy Tomlinson who was directing Hobson’s Choice. I had to be her eyes as, bless her, she had a tendency to fall asleep during rehearsals! It was not long after that play Peggy, very sadly, passed away. My directorial debut was Intimate Exchanges with a small cast of 4. Since then I have directed Lucky Sods, Proscenophobia, Maskerade, Carrington VC and This Happy Breed some of which had cast sizes of up to 26

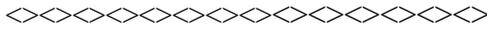
predominately men. In 2014 I was nominated for Best Director for Carrington VC in the Bromley Theatre Guild Play Festival and I am proud of all the cast and crew involved in that production.. As most of you know I like to be a bit experimental particularly with staging, so for Carrington VC and This Happy Breed I decided that we could perform this in the round (or the oblong!) as it provides a more intimate space for both the actors and audience. Logistically a lot more complicated from a lighting perspective, working out how many seats we can get in the hall and having to recruit more front of house but a rewarding and challenging experience. For me directing allows you to work with your actors and backstage crew to bring your vision to life and each actor will bring something to the parts they portray and the experienced backstage crew will always come up with solutions to problems. However, the final finished piece is never for me quite finished and those who have been in one of my plays will know that I change things right up to the last minute!

To be able to perform at the Edinburgh Fringe has definitely been a highlight for me, and the Chelsfield Players under the name of Jim Slips has performed 3 times to good audiences and sell out performances. Always a good laugh and great fun!

The Chelsfield Players goes from strength to strength and we are very fortunate to have so many members involved both onstage and backstage. It always feels like one big family. However, we mustn't forget though that Amateur Theatre not only relies on the actors but the backstage crew are just as important as without them it would be very difficult to put on a play.

I have also acted with and directed for other local groups, Pratts Bottom Amateur Dramatics Society, The Hayes Players and more recently Theatre62. I love venturing to other societies to see how they operate and pick up a few tips here and there but my home will always be with the Chelsfield Players. As such it has been an honour and a privilege to have been Chairman for the last 3 years and for me it is a culmination of my time (so far) of being a member of the society and as I step down next year, I look forward to seeing what the Chelsfield Players has in store in the future and for many years to come.

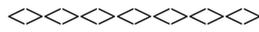
Cynthia



A Lady Mislaid

Our Spring production will be 'A Lady Mislaid' by Kenneth Horne directed by Ken Clarke. It will take place in April 2017.

'One just can't be too careful when buying a house in an unfamiliar part of the country. Especially if 'one' happens to be two sisters in search of peace and quiet and it turns out that the police want to dig up the cellar and generally take the place apart in search of a possible cadaver



Andy Haggerty, Judy Ives, Jo Clent, Del Aalsey, Ken Clarke - all with Chelsfield and Pratts Bottom
Keith Wishart – Chelsfield, Phoenix and Theatre 62

Maddy McCubbin – Pratts Bottom, SLOG, Sevenoaks Players, Stag Theatre and Chelsfield

David Bacon – Act 1, Chelsfield, Swanley Light Operatic Group and Hartley Players

Patrick Neylan – Chelsfield, Geoffrey Whitworth Theatre and Bromley Little Theatre

Jo East, Marie Hurding, – Chelsfield and Phoenix

David Pascoe – Hayes and Chelsfield

Emma Christmas – not acting but invaluable back stage BLT and Chelsfield

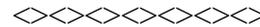
Renee Meissner – Burnt Ash Drama Association and Chelsfield

Gill Bacon – Act 1, Hartley Players and Chelsfield

Phil George – West Wickham Pantomime Society and Chelsfield

That is some 17 strolling players and 14 amateur acting groups. I have probably got some of this wrong and no doubt left someone out and for that I apologise but at least it gives you some idea of the amount of 'acting' that goes on and all the thousand upon thousands of words that are learnt. Many years ago I prompted several times for the Bromley Theatre Guild's joint productions – and thoroughly enjoyed it all. I once even prompted for Pratts Bottom.

Ann Blatcher



TICKETS FOR SALE
THE BOX OFFICE IS OPEN

The Railway Children

Tickets £8

Including refreshments

November 24, 25, 26 at 7.30pm and also
Saturday 26th at 2.30pm

The Chelsfield Players dedicated 'phone
number for the Box Office

Chelsfield Players

0 7 8 1 6 5 0 5 4 4 8

or book on line

: <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/chelsfieldplayers>

Ticket price £7.50 plus 10% booking fee

If you have any news or information for the
Newsletter please contact me –

Ann Blatcher editor@chelsfieldplayers.org

visit our website at www.chelsfieldplayers.org

THE CHELSFIELD PLAYERS

Got one of these but don't use it as a rule?

Do you recognise what this is and which end to hold?

Do you enjoy DIY - but would enjoy it better with others?

Do you know a wood drill from a masonry drill?

Do you think it fun to make a scene?

Are you good at papering over the cracks?

Is it a stage you're going through?

Can you spare a weekend three times a year?

Then join, it's a dream in our Set Building Team
If you are interested in joining the Chelsfield Players Set Builders, then please phone Jeremy on 01689 835089 or email info@chelsfieldplayers.org

'Our Actors'

Many years ago in each amateur group the members mainly acted only for their own groups. Some still do this, though now members quite often take part in productions with several companies. It is usual for actors to make sure they are not needed for their own group's next production before offering themselves for parts elsewhere. This year and in no particular order Chelsfield Players has sent actors out and gratefully received actors in as follows:-

Cynthia Hearing – Chelsfield, Theatre 62 and Hayes