

Dick Whittington is a production to remember!

After all the hard work, the rehearsals, the hours spent learning lines (although clearly not enough hours judging by the performances) the show is over. Yes, there were many mistakes, some truly memorable such as Dickie Dawson forgetting to bring the locket on for King Rat to work his mischief on, but actually the feedback I obtained from the audience was that the panto was very enjoyable and good value for money. So, congratulations to all concerned, especially Trudy, who coped with an unruly cast whose attitude to rehearsals could sometimes be a little casual (especially mine!), and my particular heroine, Tikki, who spend hours painting the many sets. The costumes and sets came in for especial praise from the audience, and deservedly so. The players are indeed fortunate to have such a devoted and diligent band of helpers who work hard without getting the reward that the actors enjoy - the direct feedback from the audience in the form of applause. They just get on and produce whatever the Director asks for without fussing or flapping.



In my capacity as Editor of this newsletter, I would like to thank all concerned in the production for putting together a great show. Let us all learn from the mistakes but also recognise that we pulled it off again!

Our first play in 2016

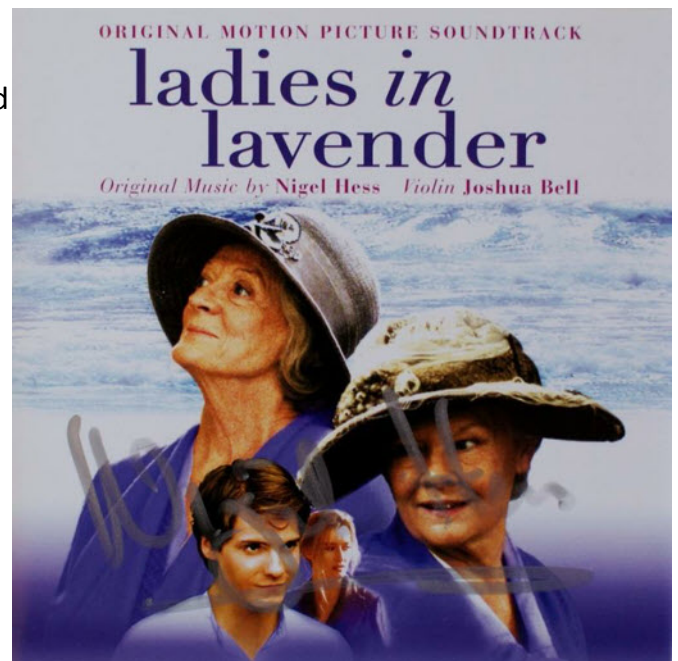
Our next production is "Ladies in Lavender", to be directed by Richard Finn. We have already experienced a very enjoyable read through of the play, at West Court, and auditions are due to be held on 17th December at the same venue.

Many of you will be familiar with the film starring Dame Judi Dench and Maggie Smith, although the play is (as you might expect) slightly different.

Come along to the auditions and pitch for a part. It is sure to be an interesting production.

COMING UP SOON!

Chris Hall will be undertaking another 'live' screening in the School Hall on Wednesday 17th February - The Crucible, by Arthur Miller. Richard Armitage stars in this classic American drama brought vividly to life in this visceral new production by internationally acclaimed director Yaël Farber. In a small tight-knit community, personal grievances collide with lust and superstition, fuelling widespread hysteria. Miller's timeless parable attacks the evils of mindless persecution and the terrifying power of false accusations. Admission £5.00 - don't miss this!

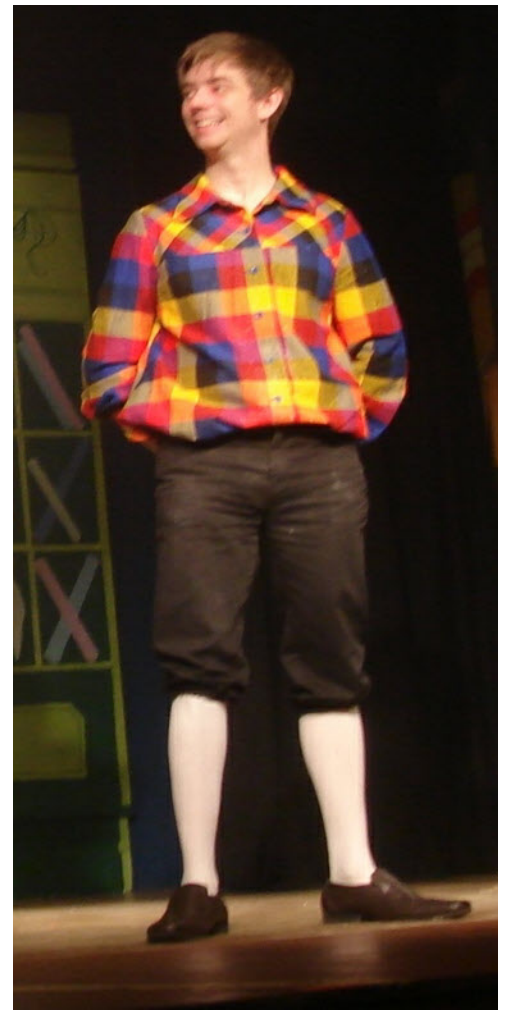


Dick Whittington - A review by John Munson

I have been much quoted as calling the production 'A Hoot'. It was indeed a hoot. Partly because of the intended performances by many of the cast and partly because of the parts where members of the cast only pretended to forget their lines! Or Did they? We'll never know. John Watson was a shapely Dame, 'Sarah Stewpot'. In real life John is witty company; dressed in a frock, he would make a cat laugh. Catherine Beach as Dick Whittington was a spectacular thigh slapper, had a tuneful voice and can also act. What more can an audience request? Tierney Haynes was a sinuous cat, it was a pity we didn't hear her human voice. Dickie Dawson wore his wig with suitable gravitas as the moneyed Alderman Fitzwarren. Kathryn Shirley was the lovely Alice, and joined Dick in some excellent duets. Brett Baker was Idle Jack. He brought much needed energy and speed to otherwise sometimes slow scenes. Captain Slog and Bosun, played by Rachael Newton and Fran Butler needed no help from anyone, but stormed through their scenes with great drive. My favourite one was when the little rats hid behind the fluttering drapes! John Caplen moved and sang beautifully as King Rat. One of the most popular characters was Lucy Wood as Fairy Bow Bells. She looked as if she was enjoying herself and we all loved it when she danced on and off. And she lives in Detling and made her own costume!! John Sheldon made a brief but convincing appearance as Sheikh Yarmoney. The Witch Doctor Karaffe had to be Gavin McLaggan. Who else in Detling can move in such a sinister way and yet portray such kindness and understanding? Fang, the bread seller, was played by Clara Spree with a great understanding of the commercial attitude of the character. (She also happens to be my granddaughter and a Sagittarian to boot). The fruit seller, who is not related to myself, was Karen Reynolds. The Ratlings who scuttled about all over the place and danced brilliantly were; Lottie Richard, Ilana Wigg, Lucie Hamilton, Esme Brown, Aimee Thatcher, Lillia Waghorn, Evie Fone and Florence Fone.

On stage were supported by a brilliant back stage! Trudy Caplen directed and also prompted. Amy Dowd on piano and Aidan on drums were brilliant with the music. Stage manager was Darren O'Connor. Sheila Cook designed the set. Ticki, Ron, Janice, Martin Lia, Nick and others painted the set. Derek Laurence, Terry Trivett and Martin Pember built the set. Chris and Liz Hall lit the show and did sound assisted by Laura Murphy, Abigail Daly and Cameron Spree (Cameron worked the following spot on his sixteenth birth day and is also our grand son!). Costumes were managed by Jennifer Brightwell, Freda Laurence and Jannett Trivett. Props were cleverly organised by Gill Munson, (She is my wonderful wife!) and Jennie Bentley.. Special props were created by Mary Douglas, Ticki Gulland. The Backstage crew were Derek Laurence, Terry Trivett, Cameron Spree and Trudy Caplen. Gruesome make-up was imaginatively created by Carol Finn and Irene Sheldon. Tesco Grove Green supplied the trolley. It is obvious from this list what a wonderful creation for a village a pantomime is. How many people it brings together in a co-operative effort. Thanks are due to Trudy Caplen for taking on this massive task and all those who played their parts in this fun project. If this account appears biased in any way, I can assure readers that I have never met any of those named (and I am only related to a few of them)





some photos of the cast in action. Or is that inaction? Lol as I believe they say...