

## November production agreed

The committee members have been mulling over various possibilities for our next production, and I can now announce that we have made our decision. The Players will be putting on their own version of the hilarious comedy, *A Bunch Of Amateurs*, written by Ian Hislop (who lives in Kent) and Nick Newman. Ed Price, who performed so brilliantly in *King Lear*, will direct the play, and auditions will be held in the very near future.

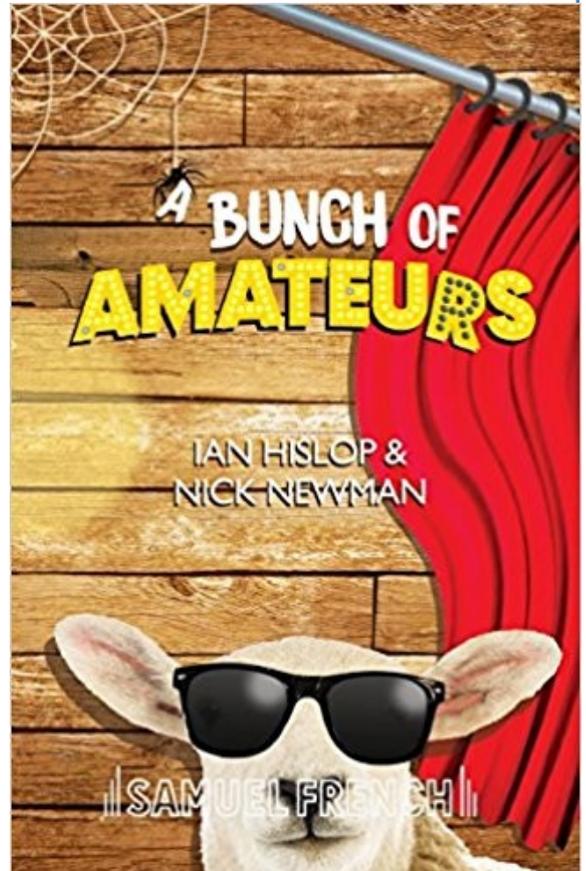
Our decision was based on a number of convincing factors; firstly and most importantly, it is a very funny play and made us laugh out loud while we were reading it. Secondly, it is about an amateur dramatic society attempting to put on their production of *King Lear* so there are echoes of our last play - not to mention some of the cast would already know their lines! And thirdly, this is a brand new release to the amateur dramatic world, so we will be at the very forefront by putting this on.

This is the blurb that accompanies the script:

“Keen to boost his flagging career, fading Hollywood action hero Jefferson Steele arrives in England to play *King Lear* in Stratford – only to find that this is not the birthplace of the Bard, but a sleepy Suffolk village. And instead of Kenneth Branagh and Dame Judi Dench, the cast are a bunch of amateurs trying to save their theatre from developers. Jefferson’s monstrous ego, vanity and insecurity are tested to the limit by the enthusiastic am-dram thespians. As acting worlds collide and Jefferson’s career implodes, he discovers some truths about himself – along with his inner *Lear*!”

### **PUBLICITY - WE NEED YOUR HELP NOW!**

In addition to getting the play cast and the sets built, and all the usual tasks facing the production team, we really need to promote and publicise this play, because although it is brilliant, the very fact that it is new will mean that our potential audience may not be familiar with it, so we will need to make the public aware from a very early stage that we are doing something really special. Which is quite typical of the Detling Players...



John Watson, Chairman

## Chairmans report

At the recent Annual General Meeting in the old school, the Chairman read out his report for the 2017 year of operation:

The last year has been a very interesting and productive year for the Detling Players, so let me take you through some of the highlights

In April, we staged LADIES IN LAVENDER to great critical acclaim. It was our entry into the KDA festival and we picked up six nominations for awards

In June, we hosted the KDA awards ceremony – which was also a bit of an opportunity to add to our funds –and we gained three awards: Best Sound, Best Stage Presentation and Best Actress in a Supporting Role

In July, we had a live screening of “Into the Woods” at this very venue

On 28<sup>th</sup> August, the players suffered a major blow with the news that Gavin McLaggan had died after a short illness. Gavin was so much a part of the Players and had directed, produced and acted in so many productions and events, we wouldn’t be here without his vision and enthusiasm. He is indeed sorely missed

In September, we had a play reading of “Theatrical Knights” by local playwright Keith Lipscombe, at West Court

In October, Chris Hall and Dicky Dawson gave us a workshop in relation to the fine art of stage management

In November, we put on a performance of Hay Fever, which brought in some new actors as well as being a terrific production

In January we read a play written by John Watson and Kathryn Shirley at West Court

February was taken up with rehearsals but in March we found time to have a live screening of Noel Coward’s Private Lives

That brings us more or less up to date with the April production of King Lear which was a thought-provoking interpretation by Richard Finn; again we had an influx of new acting blood largely from Hollingbourne – always fun to work with a new crowd

When you look back on that, it makes the annual membership fee seem great value for money

We have also been lucky enough, through Jan Kennard, to secure the services of Rita King who has given our website a complete makeover so that now it is much more up to date and informative

2017 will continue with a programme of activities as well as our November production, which I hope to be able to confirm in the next issue of Prompt, our newsletter

I would like to thank Ron Davie for his many years of tireless and largely thankless service as our representative on the Detling Village Hall Management Committee. I am pleased to advise that we have made him a lifetime member of the Detling Players so he no longer has to stump up the annual membership fee

Finally, I would like to thank my fellow committee members and all the people who have contributed in so many ways to the success of our group

The Committee all offered to continue in their current posts, as follows:

Chairman	John Watson
Treasurer	Richard Finn
Secretary	Darren O’Conor
Box office	Jan Kennard
Membership	Trudy Caplen
Technical matters	Chris Hall

Membership Renewal

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