

## OH WHAT A HUGE SUCCESS!

**Detling Players 'elevated to a new level of performance' 'Stunning'...**

Those of you who saw the recent production of 'Oh What A Lovely War' will need no convincing that Juliet Miles Lea directed a truly amazing show and that all the hard work of cast and support crew paid off in the end. The emails have been pouring in, all fulsome in their praise and all those involved have been walking on air ever since!

Be in no doubt, this was a complex production, fraught with difficulties and many challenges, but under Juliet's inspired direction, and with a huge effort from the cast, we put together a truly professional show, and the audience reaction was a ringing endorsement of everything we had done to make it a success.

In addition to the cast who tackled the multiple roles with enthusiasm and skill, we must pay tribute to Tikki Gulland who spent a huge amount of time and energy sourcing the props and making sure they were available at the right time, and in the right place. Those apparently effortless changes from one role to another were masterminded by Tikki and her team, and the props we couldn't get off the shelf such as the boat, the beer trolley and the rifles were made by Martin Pember. Lighting and sound effects were in the capable hands of Chris and Liz Hall, and huge thanks are due to our Musical Director, Kerne Clemence, who patiently coached, cajoled, encouraged and occasionally threatened us - I would have to say his contribution was nothing less than "vital"!



The emotional finale - 'Chanson de Craonne'



The big opening number - "Johnny Jones"



The Glorious 12th...

## RE-LAUNCH OF THE DETLING PLAYERS IN 2012

We have referred to the impending re-launch of the Detling Players previously, and at The Croft on Thursday 26th January, at 7.30 p.m., the process will start. The intention is to maintain all the good things about the Players, but at the same time bring new ideas into play.

After drinks and nibbles, Tikki Gulland (Chair) and John Watson (Vice Chair) will introduce the new concepts and also reflect on the year that has passed with its achievements. This will be an interactive discussion, and we will be looking for suggestions for plays to be performed in 2012 and beyond. David Vale will present "Working with Animals" and John Watson will offer an introduction to Aubrey's Brief Lives. There may be other performances to be enjoyed, but you will have to attend to find out what they might be!

On Thursday 23rd February, Chris Hall will give a presentation on Lighting and Sound - the aspects of a performance that can so easily make the difference between success and failure. Venue to be announced in a future issue of Prompt.

Looking to the future, the Detling Players AGM will be held on Thursday 22nd March, at West Court, to be followed by a play reading - The Pitmen Painters, masterminded by Richard Finn. We are also suggesting that (in order to enliven the proceedings) people come dressed as a character from a play.

On Thursday 26th April, Gavin McLaggan will conduct a Directors' workshop - so, lots of events to look forward to...please come to as many of these events as you can, not only to enjoy and learn but also to support the Players as we change, grow and improve.

### DETLING CHRISTMAS FAIR

Thanks to the generosity of our supporters who donated bottles to go on our Bottle Stall, we raised nearly £66 which helps to swell the coffers! A good effort all round !!!

### TRAVESTIES

Hot off the press, we are delighted to announce that Gavin McLaggan has agreed to direct 'Travesties' by Tom Stoppard in April 2013. Now that may sound a long time away but it will be here before you know it! Auditions will be held next September. I know I will be there...so watch our for further announcements in Prompt.

### PANTOMIME

*Love it or hate it, Pantomime has a long tradition and, let's face it, can be a lot of fun both to perform in and watch. Is anyone out there brave enough to direct a Panto in 2012? I am sure lots of the Detling Players and their friends would want to participate, so if you feel this could be your forte, don't be shy, come along to one of our meetings and share your thoughts. You will have plenty of support so - get your favourite panto script out, insert some topical references and we could have a winner on our hands!*



### JENNY PEMBER

It is with great sadness that we learned that Jenny passed away last month. She had been a member of Detling Players for many years, and having originally been our Membership Secretary, went on to combine that role with the duties of the Committee Secretary. Jenny did so much work for the Players, and was a real stalwart, producing the newsletter, communicating with members and prospective members, acting on occasions and of course, taking the minutes of the Committee meetings with great care and skill.

I know that she was in the thoughts of the cast as they presented Oh What A Lovely War, which both she and her husband Martin helped to bring to fruition. We send our sincere condolences to Martin and would like to place on record our gratitude for Jenny's work on behalf of the Players. She will be greatly missed.