



Chairman's Ad Lib

Welcome to another year of live performance art! And what a year it is shaping up to be! Make a note in your diaries and don't miss these opportunities to enjoy some fantastic local talent at the Players Theatre. Where else could you get a great evening's entertainment for less than the price of a bunch of sunflowers or a couple of steak & ale pies?

Tuesday 19 until Saturday 23 September

Hobson's Choice: Our production for this year's Hurst Festival.

Monday 25 September

Grimm Tales: Performed by those amazingly talented drama students from Hurst College.

Friday 29 September

Stephen Sondheim's *Getting It Together*, another first class Gin Palace Production.

Thursday 12 through to Sunday 15 October

Non-Stop Shakespeare: Our major fund-raiser in aid of the theatre refurbishment.

Friday 28 October

Vivace! In Concert: Sixty minutes of musical nectar from the wonderful Sussex choir.

Saturday 11 November

50:50 Magic: A family evening of astonishing street and stage magic by the Southdowns Magicians.

Friday 17 and Saturday 18 November

An Intimate Evening of Song: With Foxi Vox (Lou Beckerman and Sarah Carpenter, with Mike and Reina Reinstein (early booking advised!)).

Your new Committee (see inset) has got off to a brisk start by adding a few working groups to increase our focus on future productions and to develop the benefits of membership. The Groups now are Artistic & Productions, Facilities & Premises, Refurbishment, Publicity, Social, and Fundraising.

Our first collaboration with Cuckfield Dramatic Society was a great success, both from the sales of tickets and from making new friends in delivering quality live drama. Congratulations to CDS on putting together an excellent production. The professional attitude of your company and crew made it a fairly painless experience for us and we look forward to maybe doing this again next year?

A huge 'Thank you' to all those lovely people who came to our Open Garden and Cream Tea event on the hot and sunny Sunday 2 July. Over 400 scones and gallons of tea were made, tables were waited on, crockery was washed up, plants and entrance tickets sold, all by a wonderful team of smiling helpers. Another huge 'Thank you' goes to Annette and Michael SQUIRE who hosted and arranged the event, which raised over £1,200 towards our Refurbishment Fund - a magnificent result!

Don't forget to support Non-Stop Shakespeare - it is the stuff of legend and you WILL kick yourselves if you don't take part in some way!

Steve Somers
Chairman

CONTACT DETAILS

Michael Squire (*President*)
01273 833164
fatcat.collegelane@btinternet.com

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Richard Coney
01273 835128
coneyst@talktalk.net

Alan Needham
01273 960883
alan.needham41@gmail.com

Josie Porter
01273 832787
josie.porter@rookwood.net

Marilyn Somers
01273 833987
marilyn.somers@virgin.net

Stephen Somers (*Chairman*)
01273 833987
players.tech.steve@btinternet.com

Chrys Tarr
01273 832964
chryst51@outlook.com

Annette Squire
01273 833164
fatcat.collegelane@btinternet.com

Hazelle Woodhurst
07577 601808
woodydale@gmail.com

HOBSON'S CHOICE

September 19-23

Henry Horatio Hobson is one of the greatest comic characters in English drama. A tyrannical skinflint and shopkeeper, he forbids his eldest daughter, Maggie, to marry Will Mossop, his shy apprentice boot maker thus triggering a formidable battle of wills which could cost him his customers, his daughters and his pride.

It's his choice - what will he do?

This classic comedy, although first produced in 1915, is still just as relevant today with our constant battle to get men to recognise that women are their equals (or betters) in every way.

BOOK NOW!

**Hurst Festival Box Office
in Theatre Foyer,
Thursday, Friday and
Saturday Mornings
OR online at
www.hurstfestival.org**

This newsletter is for news about Hurst Players and its members and we want to hear from you about things that are happening. If you have any news that you would like to have included in this newsletter please send it to the editor by email:
news@hurstplayers.org.uk

Dates for your Diary



September 19 - 23
HOBSON'S CHOICE
Starts 8 pm



September 25
GRIMM TALES



September 29
STEPHEN SONDHEIM'S
GETTING IT TOGETHER



October 12 - 15
NON-STOP
SHAKESPEARE
Starts 7.30 pm on the 12th



October 28
VIVACE! IN CONCERT



Saturday 11 November
50:50 MAGIC



November 16
National Theatre Live
STEPHEN SONDHEIM'S
FOLLIES



November 17 - 18
AN INTIMATE EVENING
OF SONG



December 7
National Theatre Live
YOUNG MARX



More information for
all events happening in
the Players Theatre is
available at
[players-theatre-
hurstpierpoint.uk](http://players-theatre-hurstpierpoint.uk)

Seat Sponsorship

Michael Squire is looking for sponsors for the new seats in the refurbished theatre; these will be available at £80 per seat or £150 for two. Each sponsor will be recorded by a name plaque on the back of the chair. Michael Squire will be contacting you shortly but if you wish to secure the best seats please contact him first (!) on 01273 833164

Open Garden with Cream Tea

On a beautiful day at the beginning of July Michael and Annette Squire opened their garden in aid of the Hurst Players, in anticipation of making a few bob for the refurbishment. Nearly 200 people actually turned up and the kitchen became a frantic hive of activity as the team turned out teas, with further batches of scones hastily being made as the afternoon went on. There was also live entertainment provided by a young woodpecker squawking from his hole. (He is now fully fledged and visits us regularly!) There was a well supported plant stall, a cake stall and a raffle and the final total was £1,220, an amazing amount. Many thanks to the valiant team of helpers who helped to achieve this and to all those who attended the event.

Richard Winton

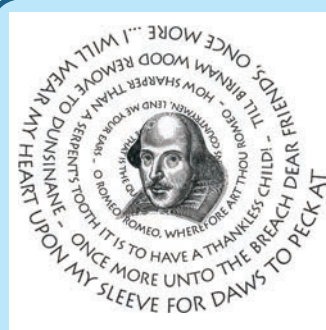
It is with great sadness that we have to report the death of our good friend Richard Winton. Richard joined the Players in 1986, having come over the border from Surrey, and immediately threw himself into the society. For many years he was a member of the Committee and at one time he was our Chairman.

Richard was a delightful man with a wonderful dry wit and would often keep us amused with tales of his particular "mots justes" when dealing with pupils at Hurst College in whom he was attempting to instil an appreciation of maths.

He was a great actor, tackling every kind of role ranging from Edmund in *King Lear* to Dame Dangle in *Santa in Space*, from Guiseppe Girola in *The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui* to the Wolf in *Red Riding Hood*, with everything in between. He also had a wonderful singing voice which was put to good use in our cabarets. He designed and built many of our sets and also worked hard at the general jobs ensuring the upkeep of the theatre. He was one of the valiant crew balancing precariously with a tarpaulin on what remained of the roof after the hurricane of 1987 and making the collapsed bar safe for the opening night of *Shut your Eyes and Think of England* which was due to open four days later (and in which he also had the part of Mr Rubenstein).

Those who knew him will have wonderful memories of Richard, whether it be beavering away at set building, enjoying a pint at the New Inn after said set building or messing about on the river at our annual "works outing" to the Kenton Festival at Henley.

In recent times he was prevented by illness from taking an active part in the theatre and its activities. We missed him and now even more we feel his loss. Our thoughts are with Rosie at this sad time.



NON-STOP SHAKESPEARE 12 - 15 OCTOBER TAKE PART TO HELP RAISE FUNDS ANY TIME OF DAY

From 7.30pm on Thursday October 12th until sometime on Sunday 15th, we are holding a Shakespeare marathon reading of all 37 of his plays for 24 hours a day. This event is to raise funds for the major refurbishment needed for the Players Theatre, to ensure that Live Theatre lives on in Hurstpierpoint. Not just live theatre but Hurstpierpoint Cinema use the building for their

regular film shows, there are regular screenings of National Theatre Live in the venue and the children's theatre group Centre Stage use it on Saturdays. If you can take part in this exciting event (no experience necessary) please contact the organisers by dropping a note through the theatre's letterbox or emailing the them at: shakespeare@hurstplayers.org.uk

This Newsletter is kindly sponsored by

CLIFFORD DANN

Chartered Surveyors & Estate Agents

Telephone 01273 833491