



Journal of the  
Lapworth Players

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**dates for your diary**

Monday 5 October 7.30pm	Lights workshop
Wednesday 14 October	Committee meeting
Monday 19 October	Sinbad Box Office opens
Monday 26 October	<i>The Weir</i> Loft Theatre
November 25 – 28	Pantomime
Saturday 30 January 2010	Revue
April 29 – May 1 2010	Spring Play
January 2011	Pantomime

**SINBAD BOX OFFICE**

Tickets will be on sale from Monday 19 October  
From Heather Copland

## **Committee News**

Once again, a lively committee meeting was held, this time at the home of Peter Williams. There was plenty of debate and discussion, in spite of a few committee members not being present. I think that those who came just spoke more to make up for them.

As members may have noticed, 'Ivy Cottage', the container, is now in situ and, following a very productive working party, it is now full of costumes, leaving remaining loft items more accessible. Ian, our Treasurer, reported that the cost of installing and fitting out the container had been subsidised from LP funds to the tune of £92. Overall, the project has been well worth the outlay; Ivy would be, I am sure, very happy with the outcome so thank you to all who have worked so hard to make her wish a reality.

With the addition to our assets in the form of the container, it was agreed, by the committee, that an audit should be undertaken of all our equipment and resources. Ian carried out a thorough review for insurance purposes and advised that £30,000 was a more realistic figure. The increased premium was agreed upon.

Keen to move on with projects, it was decided that with the creation of more space in the loft, a general overhaul of that space should be undertaken, starting with the lighting/sound box. Before the 'cull' of unused or defunct equipment takes place, the committee would be grateful if any members who have left items lurking in the dark recesses of that area would claim and collect them; it would be tragic if a treasured extension lead was dumped!

The committee always discusses future events and several were on the agenda at this meeting. Jack attended and was able to inform us about the revue in January. He has plenty of ideas in the pipeline – but I don't want to spoil the fun by telling you what they are at this stage. The panto' rehearsals have started and plans are afoot for the Spring Play.

Sadly, the committee had to make a very difficult decision about the Disco'. Due to lack of support, it was cancelled. We debated the matter long and hard but felt that the number of people coming was not enough to provide a 'party' atmosphere. The decision was taken reluctantly because Patrick Wall, who was to DJ on the night, had put a tremendous amount of work and enthusiasm into the organization and it was great shame that, on this occasion, we could not support one of our long-serving, committed young members. The committee is now going to review the type of social events to put on as this is the second event we have cancelled

In addition to social events, the committee is going to consider membership – how to encourage, and more importantly, retain new members. I feel another 'heated debate' looming.

**Pippa Abbott**

## Ivy Cottage - the summer of 09

May /June: As reported earlier the site was cleared and levelled (thanks Colin with the digger) and the debris disposed of (thanks Rick with the truck) during 2 Sunday afternoon working parties.

July 19<sup>th</sup> :The hardcore having been duly delivered, another very successful working party, rakes at the ready, prepared the base - we were well sheltered from the rain under the large branch of the tree covering the site!

In early August a site inspection confirmed that the crane was able to site the container without a problem and on August 21 the container was delivered. The inside of the container was then painted dazzling white by some painters, the rails and pigeon holes were built by some builders and the floor was scrubbed by some ... very nice ladies ...

Sept 5<sup>th</sup> : A lovely warm, dry day - (whew !) and the best 'turn-out' of willing workers to date. We made a good start at 10am ( some even earlier) transferring items from the loft into the container under the direction of the wardrobe team. We also brushed and scrubbed the raked seating chairs and painted the front doors and side of the container. A start was made on cataloguing all LP property and estimating replacement costs for insurance. A very successful day all round - the gourmet lunch was fantastic!

SO .. a big thanks to everyone - the weeders, rakers, rubbish removers, site levellers, painters, scrubbers, lunch providers, clothes shifters and sorters - a brilliant job - we achieved everything we had hoped and more. Well done to ALL of you who helped - Ivy would have been tickled pink, I'm sure.

*P.S Don't hold your breath though .. I did hear a whisper that someone thought a SECOND container would be REALLY useful - watch this space and don't bin the working clothes.*

Vera Male

(Pages 4 and 5 of the printed version which contain pictures of Ivy Cottage have not been reproduced here.)

## Sinbad update

With the first four rehearsals under his belt, producer Will Stuart is still looking for someone to play Sinbad's brother, Ali. This is a great part, described as 'a well-known Baghdad idiot' and plays alongside the dame, Widow O'Malley (Mike Brunt) and the princess's handmaiden Fatima (Becca Tallentire). It would ideally suit a young man late teens to early twenties but could be played by someone older.

On a more positive note, Celia Flavell has agreed to be stage manager and the first set-building session is on Sunday 24 September at 10am. Terry Powderhill is designing the set, Janette Shaw's son will do sound and James Blackburn lights.

**There are some scripts missing** – people who wanted to read but then failed to come to the casting – could you return them to Will please as they are needed for sound and lights.

An appeal from 'wardrobe' is for wire coat hangers to hang shirts in Ivy Cottage.

*And a note from me, the Editor! Since Will offered to produce this pantomime, he has set up his own gardening business. It is to his credit that in spite of work pressures, he has not let the Players down, so it is up to us all to give him our support - that means turning up to rehearsals and on time!*

## WORKSHOPS

Many thanks to Harry and Terry who ran the Sound and Lights Workshops in August - they were great evenings and very informative. It was amazing to see just how many people could squeeze into the attic area and even more amazing to see people running up and down ladders and scuttling around in dark dusty corners! Terry is running the second part of the lights workshops on Monday 5 October at 7.30 in the Village Hall, which will look at the more artistic side of lighting - it will be another great evening, so come along - everybody is welcome.

*Becca Tallentire*

***There is nothing like a Dame.....***

Our dame this year, Widow O'Malley, is Mike Brunt, who burst onto our stage as Teddie in *The Ghost Train*.

Mike and his partner Liz came to Lapworth in 1999, living at first in Meadow Lane and more recently in Canalside Cottages. Their two daughters, Tessa (9) and Nixie (6) are to take part in *Sinbad*.

Nixie did ballet with Monique and she and Liz took part in Monique's production of *The Little Mermaid* at Redditch It was through Liz's attending Monique's tap-dancing class that she got to know some of our members. Her first involvement with the Players was helping to paint the set for *Stepping Out*.

Liz, Tessa and Nixie then appeared in *A Christmas Carol*. Mike would come and collect the girls from rehearsals and he must have liked what he saw as he came to the next casting and was quickly snapped up in the role of Teddie.

Mike has a degree in maths and is now Brand Manager at an educational publishers, Nelson Thornes, based in Cheltenham, where he leads a team in marketing and customer communications.

Liz has a degree in maths and Physics and is currently studying for a PGCE at Newman College, which will qualify her for teaching Key stages 2 and 3.

In what spare time they have, their interests are centered around their family, Mike encouraging Nixie's new-found interest in fishing, Liz enjoying doing 'crafty' things with the girls and the whole family enjoying National Trust visits and bicycle rides.

Both girls are looking forward to being in *Sinbad* and will be tickled to see their Dad in a frock! It is difficult for both Mike and Liz to be in the same production, but we hope to see Liz treading the boards again in the future.

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*Congratulations to Nicola, Fiona and Faith on their GCSE results, we wish them all the best in the next stage of their education.  
(I hope I haven't left anyone out!)*



Congratulations to three of our committee members who have recently become grandmothers

Chairman Pippa, whose daughter Louise has had a baby boy, Max  
Secretary Vera, whose daughter Wendy has a baby girl, Amy,  
a sister for Eva and Oliver

and Membership Secretary Jill, whose son Stuart's wife has had  
a baby girl, Poppy, a sister for Lily.

Louise, Wendy and Stuart have all been Youth Theatre members in the past.

## **A Christmas Carol** - revisited

You may remember how I enthused about a production of *A Streetcar named Desire*, performed by Bridge House Theatre, Warwick. It seems I was not alone – the Observer drama critic wrote ‘There hasn’t been a drama in 10 years on the BBC that has moved me so much’.

The same company are to present *A Christmas Carol*, said to be a new adaptation by Mark Carey with original music by Corin Buckeridge. They invite us all to ‘stay local, for a magical, musical, Christmas experience...’

Doreen Halson has agreed to book tickets for anyone who would like to go. The production dates are from Wed 2 to Sat 19 December, our preferred date is Monday 7, as we are all so busy then. Tickets are £14.00 and £8.00 (concs). The performance is at the Guy Nelson Hall, which is part of Warwick School, just along Myton Road, on the right. (If you can’t go on the 7<sup>th</sup> and would like to go independently, the Box Office number is 01926 776438).

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I also read that *A Christmas Carol* is to come out in 3D on film – Disney, 6 November. Jim Carrey and Gary Oldman star in this update of the Charles Dickens classic.

Apparently there is to be an upsurge in 3D films - with digital technology, things are much improved. 320 out of the 3,500 UK cinemas have had their screens upgraded and the new polarised glasses have replaced the flimsy ones of old and even fit over most spectacles.