



SEPTEMBER 2024

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Hi everyone,

I am writing to you all on Sunday the 26th of August, one day after our Festival productions finished.

Our morning play, 'Surplus Women', was a huge success judging by the feedback received. Many congratulations to all concerned: Stuart Smithers who wrote it, Tracy Clayton and Tamsin Brazier who acted superbly and Helen Harries Rees who directed it so brilliantly.

The evening production, 'Cider with Rosie', which sold out at most performances, delighted our audiences with the story of Laurie Lee, expertly narrated by Nick Roughton. Again, many congratulations to all involved, especially Gill Lambourn, the director, whose obvious hard work was apparent in this production.

As you can see below, rehearsals for our next production 'The Suspicions of Mr Whicher' are starting this week under the expert eye of new director, Yasmin Nixon. The box office is open and it is great to see bookings are already coming in.

A quick reminder our AGM is on Tuesday the 24th September @ 7.00 pm. Hopefully, see you all there.

Best wishes

Dawn

SET BUILDERS - YOUR COMPANY NEEDS YOU!

What We're Looking For: - DIY enthusiasts who would enjoy working with a team of other volunteers to help assemble and paint our sets. Whatever your level of expertise, you could make a valuable contribution. Typically, we stage six productions a year, each with a rehearsal period of about eight weeks, during which the sets are prepared.

How Much Of A Commitment Would This Entail? - As much or as little of your time as you are able to devote. Set building usually takes place once a week, for two or three hours at a time, on days to be agreed between the volunteers. There is no obligation to attend every session, nor to help with every production. Tools are provided, but feel free to bring your own if you prefer.- We are about to embark on building the set for our next production, The Suspicions of Mr Whicher, a Victorian murder mystery set in a prison. This would be a great opportunity to get involved right at the beginning of a new project and see it through to its conclusion - then come along to the play to admire the fruits of your labour!

What We Offer: - A friendly, relaxed atmosphere amongst like-minded theatre/DIY buffs. An opportunity to meet and chat with other volunteers over an inexhaustible supply of tea, coffee and, if you're lucky, cake as well! It's fun and it's rewarding, so why not give it a try?

How to Apply: - Just get in touch for a chat and we'll take it from there. If you're interested you can call Stuart Smithers on 07986 166880 or email him at sws57@hotmail.co.uk for further details.

FOR BOOKINGS VISIT OUR WEBSITE arundelplayers.co.uk or RING THE BOX OFFICE 07523 417926



FORTHCOMING PRODUCTIONS

The Arundel Festival may be done and dusted, but there is still plenty to look forward to in the coming months, and well into the New Year.

Rehearsals are now underway for *'The Suspicions of Mr Whicher'*, a Victorian murder mystery set in a prison. Not so much a whodunnit, more a most intriguing 'whydunnit'. Bookings are already coming in at an encouraging rate, so be sure to get your tickets early to ensure you bag your favourite seats.

Our December production is a *'Vicar of Dibley'* Christmas special, adapted and directed by Kate Bennett. If you're interested in taking part, please see the audition notice below.

Our first production in the New Year would normally take place in February but this will be delayed until April to allow time for some much needed refurbishment work within the theatre, to be carried out during January and February when the theatre will 'go dark'.

Our first production after the theatre makeover will be *'The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time'* which enjoyed a highly successful run in the West End, having only recently been released for amateur production. The play will be directed by Harry Atkinson, new to our theatre. He comes with a wealth of directorial experience gained in the Brighton theatre scene. This promises to be an exciting and innovative production to mark the re-opening of our theatre post refurbishment.

Our June production will be *'God Of Carnage'*, by Yasmina Reza. This edgy comedy, from the writer of *Art*, will be directed by Helen Harries-Rees, who has recently enjoyed great success with her productions of *'Home, I'm Darling'* and *'Surplus Women'*.

Coming full circle, our Festival 2024 production will be the musical version of *Wind in the Willows*, directed by Kate Bennett.

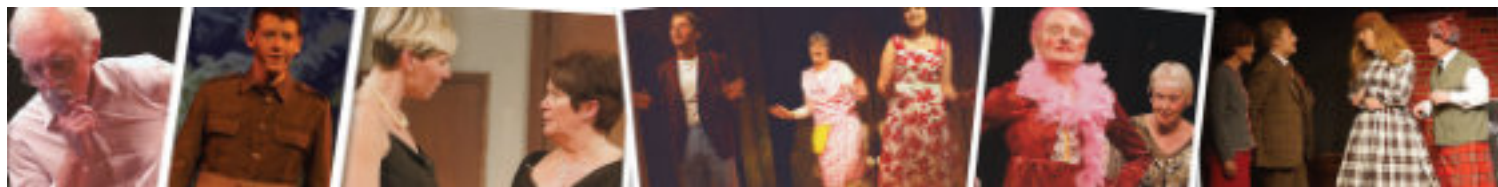
A lot to look forward to, I think you will agree - and parts aplenty to get your teeth into across a diverse range of characters.

FORTHCOMING PLAYS & EVENTS

THE SUSPICIONS OF MR WHICHER	21st to 26th October 2024
THE VICAR OF DIBLEY	9th to 14th December 2024
THE CURIOUS INCIDENT OF THE DOG IN THE NIGHT-TIME	7th to 12th April 2025
GOD OF CARNAGE	9th to 14th June 2025
WIND IN THE WILLOWS (MUSICAL)	16th to 23rd August 2025

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

'Life's but a walking shadow, a poor player that struts and frets his hour upon the stage, and then is heard no more: it is a tale told by an idiot, full of sound and fury, signifying nothing.'- *Macbeth*



AUDITION NOTICE

THE VICAR OF DIBLEY

(adapted from the original TV series)

Directed by Kate Bennett

Audition Date: **TUESDAY 17TH SEPTEMBER 2024 AT 7.30 PM**

Performance Dates: **9th - 14th December 2024**

CAST

David Horton – Chairman of the Dibley Parish Council

Hugo Horton – son of David and member of the council

Frank Pickle – secretary of the council

Jim Trott – member of the council

Owen Newitt – member of the council

Geraldine Granger – vicar of Dibley and member of the council

Alice Horton (nee Tinker) – verger and wife of Hugo

Age ranges – David, Frank, Jim and Owen are from the same generation with Hugo, Alice and Geraldine being younger.

The action takes place within the Dibley village hall leading up to Christmas with the planning and rehearsals for the Dibley Christmas production.

For anyone familiar with the sitcom, the time is set after the marriage of Alice to Hugo and the imminent birth of their first child, coinciding with the Dibley Christmas show.

There were three series of the TV show from 1994 to 2007, totalling twenty episodes with six specials. Our production cherry picks some moments from other episodes but centres around the 'Winter' episode first aired in 1999.

Whilst 100% accurate impressions of the characters are not completely necessary the script is very specifically written with certain characteristics in mind. Any audience member coming to see The Vicar of Dibley does not want an interesting and completely new interpretation of these beloved characters, but rather characterisations approximating to those in the original television series.

If you would like to see a script, or are unable to come to the audition, please email: kate_direct@hotmail.com

The auditions are open to all whether or not you are an existing member of the Players.