

# BLECHINGLEY AMATEUR DRAMATIC SOCIETY

presents

# LORD ARTHUR SAVILE'S CRIME

*A Comedy by Constance Cox*

*Produced by Paddy Martin*

*based on a short story by Oscar Wilde*

THURSDAY, FRIDAY & SATURDAY

# May 13th, 14th & 15th

# The Village Hall

AT 8.0 P.M.

Cast : Gill Barnett, John Buck, Nada Bouch, Geoff Cowperthwaite, Valerie Faulkner, Stanley Hurrell, Sheila Illsley, Daphne Neville, Norman Perry  
Michael Wilson

Tickets : 45p & 35p (numbered and reserved) from  
BLECHINGLEY POST OFFICE (GODSTONE 3201) OR SOCIETY MEMBERS

A donation from the proceeds will be made to EVERSFIELD (Reigate Housing Society for the Elderly)

*Heart Printer Reigate*

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13th, 14th & 15th May 1976

The Village Hall, Blechingley

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Those taking part:-

GILL BARNETT	NADA BOUCH
JOHN BUCK	GEOFF COWPERTHWAITTE
VALERIE FAULKNER	STANLEY HURRELL
SHEILA ILLSLEY	DAPHNE NEVILLE
NORMAN PERRY	MICHAEL WILSON

For our 24th production Paddy Martin has chosen an adaptation by Constance Cox of a short story by Oscar Wilde. This is a very amusing Edwardian comedy and we hope it will provide a good evening's entertainment for the family.

TICKETS: 45p & 35p (numbered and reserved) may be obtained from Blechingley Post Office or from Society members.

Block bookings of 12 or more—40p per ticket

## Talented success

"LORD ARTHUR SAVILE'S CRIME" has all of the right ingredients for Amateur Theatre and Blechingley Amateur Dramatic Society have many of the talents necessary to bring it off successfully.

If one may start at the end the set and costumes were of a very high standard which is essential if the period is to mean anything to either actor or audience.

It was clear that Sybil had chosen the decoration. It's rather hideous pink, was quite in keeping with the period.

It had all the right space and made for easy entrances. The only slight flaw was the mirror which was clearly higher than any of the actors could see into. The costumes nicely underlined the differences in character, particularly that of the various strata of upper class females.

But all of this good is of no consequence if the acting is poor. Blechingley are lucky that they can draw from strength and field a

cast that is well balanced, well informed and sensitive to the text.

In the lead part of Arthur Savile John Buck had much of the innocent stupidity and open naivete but carefully avoided an all too easy caricature. Geoff Cowperthwaite as Baines seemed rather unclear as to just what his social background was and should surely have been rather more retiring.

Michael Wilson was excellent in the small role of Mr. Podgers as he managed by a few deft strokes to warm the audience to his subtle intrigues.

As Herr Winkelpf, Stanley Hurrell made the audience laugh a good deal but the producer should try to persuade him that we should laugh at the character and not just at the actor playing the part. He was the only one to step outside of the convention of the play. Norman Perry bumbled nicely as the Dean and looked totally convincing.

The heart of the play, however,

lies with the ladies who were at most uniformly good. Sheila Illsley has a good voice and won our sympathy as Sybil while remaining very much her mother's daughter. Daphne Neville was quite splendid as Lady Windermere.

It is a pity that some of her resourcefulness did not rub off on her nephews. Her sense of timing and attack was smooth and fluent throughout and it was clear that it was she rather than Lady Julia who was truly at home in Arthur's house.

As Lady Julia, Valerie Faulkner had the great difficulty of being clearly too young for the part and this made her credibility very questionable. However, she has a good lively voice and her presence is secure. She would surely do better in a character closer to her own age.

Paddy Martin's production was clear and fluent though at times it was difficult to see quite where characters were going.

BRIAN HICK

**BLECHINGLEY AMATEUR DRAMATIC SOCIETY**

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