



present

A Fly in the Ointment
by Derek Benfield



Bletchingley Village Hall
October 15th, 16th, 17th 2009

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Chairman's Message:

Following the disappointment of having to cancel our May production, I am pleased to say that the necessary electrical work in the Village Hall has been completed and I hope that you enjoy our presentation of "A Fly in the Ointment" this evening.

However, we have incurred a substantial financial liability relating to the work carried out. We hope you will therefore support our decision to put the proceeds of the raffle towards the cost.

We are always looking to welcome new members, in any capacity, so if you are interested in any aspect of drama, please complete the application form at the back of the programme and hand it to any of our members.

Jeremy Lund
Chairman

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Cast (in order of appearance):

The Rt Hon Ron Corley MP.....*Guy Hudson*
 Donna*Liz Tomlin*
 WPC Brenda Hackett*Felicity Lund*
 Albert *Matt Horan*
 Louise Corley *Chris Morgan*
 Dr George Billing *Dave Wastell*

It all happens in Donna's bungalow on the Sussex coast of England during a hot summer

ACT I A Friday afternoon

Interval: Supper and raffle

ACT II A few minutes later

Production Team:

Director.....	<i>Barbara Saunders</i>
Stage Manager	<i>Cyril Mighall</i>
Lighting & Sound	<i>Rodney Bain</i> <i>Steve Morse</i>
Set Design	<i>Cyril Mighall</i>
Props	<i>Jenny Barnett</i>
Wardrobe	<i>Karen Murray</i>
Continuity	<i>Eileen Shore</i>
Set Construction	<i>Cyril Mighall</i> <i>Jeremy Lund</i> <i>John Gent</i> <i>Sean Phelan</i> <i>Joe O'Hare</i>

Front of House:

House Manager	<i>Susan Power</i>
Bar Manager	<i>Frank Power</i>
Raffle and advertising	<i>Joanna Scott</i>
Table decor	<i>Marian Buck</i>
Box Office	<i>Sue Walker</i>

Many thanks to all front of house and bar staff

Guy Hudson (Ron Corley)

This is Guy's fourth production with The Players - he's fast becoming part of the furniture. Fortunately (for everyone) the part of Ron does not involve any cross-dressing as the last part he played, Michael in Party Piece last year, had some rather serious personal issues. He has really enjoyed the rehearsals (mainly because he was on holiday for most of them!) and assures you there's no chance the cast will have peaked too early!

Liz Tomlin (Donna)

Liz first appeared on stage at the age of five and has since danced and acted in more productions than she can remember. After many years with Croydon Stagers and the Miller Centre, she moved into Bletchingley 15 years ago with her husband and joined Bletchingley Players. Her favourite parts with the Players have been the neurotic Florence in The (female) Odd Couple and M'Lynn in Steel Magnolias. She has directed three plays for Bletchingley Players: On Golden Ponds, Pygmalion and, most recently, the UK amateur premiere of The Graduate.

Chris Morgan (Louise Corley)

This is Chris's first production with the Bletchingley Players. She has been a keen actress since gaining a place at Rose Bruford Drama College at the age of eighteen. She has appeared in many productions including Dangerous Liaisons (Epsom Playhouse), Pack of Lies (The Barn) and Amy's View (The Miller Centre). Chris was awarded the Best Actress cup at the Southern Counties first round festival in 2006 and is enjoying every minute of rehearsing for her part of Louise in this production.

Matt Horan (Albert)

Matt is delighted to be taking part in his second production with Bletchingley Players, having appeared as Toby in last year's 'Party Piece'. Since then he has also appeared in the Archway Theatre's production of "Dolly West's Kitchen" and is about to return there to start rehearsals for "The Sunshine Boys".

Felicity Lund (Brenda Hackett)

Felicity rather enjoyed playing a rabbit at the age of five, so has continued acting ever since, her formative years being with Croydon Youth Theatre Organisation. Playing a frumpy policewoman is certainly different from her last role as the predatory Mrs Robinson in The Graduate. Just a few of her other appearances with Bletchingley Players over the years have been in Wait Until Dark, Hay Fever, On Golden Pond, The (female) Odd Couple, Pygmalion and Steel Magnolias; she has also directed Waiting in the Wings, Blythe Spirit and Alarms & Excursions.

Dave Wastell (George Billing)

Dave blames his wife for getting him involved in amdram. She was for some years Secretary of Downsview Players in Norbury. They were short of a non-speaking walk-on part for a particular play and coerced Dave into doing it. He claims that he was press-ganged. Here we are all these years later, having played all sorts of parts, both big and small, still "at it", having appeared many times, indeed too many to count, with many companies including The Barn, Forest Row Drama Society and The Ashdown Pantomimers

Barbara Saunders (Director)

Barbara Saunders returns to the Director's Chair following her successful production of *Party Piece* last October. Barbara also directed *Caramba's Revenge* and *Arthur's Big Day* and has appeared on stage in a number of plays, including *Steel Magnolias*, *Waiting in the Wings* and *Alarms & Excursions*.

Cyril Mighall (Stage Manager)

Cyril Mighall has been part of *Bletchingley Players* for many years as a set designer and stage manager, playing the occasional cameo part. His first theatrical experiences were while he was in the army, travelling around camps setting up stage and acting in small boring plays about civil defence.

NEXT PRODUCTION

Bletchingley Players' next production will be "Natural Causes", a black comedy by Eric Chappell.

Make a note in your diaries for:
13th, 14th, 15th May 2010



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If you would like to become a member, or would like to go on our mailing list to receive information about forthcoming productions, please complete the following form and leave it with a member of the Front of House team, or send to:

The Membership Secretary, Betchingley Players,
Bunkers, Big Common Lane,
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I would like to go on the mailing list:

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Farcically predictable

A Fly in the Ointment
Bletchingley Players
Bletchingley Village Hall
Reviewed by Tony Flook

BLETCHINGLEY Players' production of Derek Benfield's *A Fly in the Ointment* opened brightly enough with Ron Corley MP, The Minister for the Environment, searching his former mistress's bungalow in Sussex for incriminating photographs, only to be interrupted when she returned and mistakenly thought that he wanted them to get back together.

So far so good. Sadly, the story line then went downhill quickly as other characters joined the fray and lies and misunderstandings followed each other in the well worn, predictable tradition of farce.

The early exchanges between Guy Hudson as the errant politician and Liz Tomlin as Donna, his lover, were sharp and gave the impression that we might be in for a palatable comedy.

Felicity Lund drew sympathy as the sex-famished policewoman who always chose to enter and leave by the window rather than the door. She had the majority of the play's few really funny lines and made the most of them with well judged delivery and voice modulation. Her interaction with Hudson humorously and deliberately emphasised their considerable height difference.

Pizza delivery man Matt Horan was increasingly drawn into the action as the innocent stooge – not too innocent, though, to stop him fleeing Corley for £10 notes at regular intervals in



FARCE: WPC Hackett (Felicity Lund) hands Ron (Guy Hudson) coffee to try to revive Donna (Liz Tomlin). *Photo: Cyril Mighall*
payment for his co-operation.

The arrival of Corley's wife Louise, played by Chris Morgan, added to the gathering confusion. After airing her suspicions that her husband was having an affair she fell, naively, for his fairy-tale explanations about why he was in the bungalow, the knickers in his pocket and his dishevelled appearance after being ravished by Donna, offstage.

Finally, enter Dr George Billing, who had followed Louise from London to declare his love for her. Unfortunately, Dave Wastell's sincere, quietly conversational style did not match the

passionate approach the role called for.

The rest of the cast tried valiantly to catch the mood of the play and, at times, managed the almost unremittingly break-neck pace needed by farce in order, as much as anything, to mask the wafer-thin plot.

Cyril Mighall's set design intelligently left plenty of space for movement and, in a neat touch, showed more than a hint of the garden behind the window.

Director Barbara Saunders and her team worked hard but it was a pity to see them devoting their talents to such indifferent material.