



# *Players Matters*\*

## CONTENTS

President's Piece  
Paraprosdokians-an explanation  
Report on Past Events  
Congratulations & Celebrations  
Recipe Corner  
Youth News  
The Carringtons at Play  
Members Input  
Future Events  
Social News  
Out & About in the Community

(Please Note: Deadline for next Newsletter- Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> February 2020)  
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### **Presidents Piece**

Happy New Year. I hope that 2020 brings good health and happiness to us all. Christmas is always a very busy time for many of us, not least for those of us in the retail industry. Long working hours and sometimes frustrated customers all add to the stresses that the season brings. It is nice to know then, that Players soldier on in the face of adversity.

No less a challenge then, than the Players Youth Theatre Panto, *Aladdin*.

Rehearsals seemed to be going very well, but as the performances loomed over the horizon, so did the dreaded lurgy!!!! Margaret Williams went down with Bronchitis and Rod Lambert was admitted to hospital with a very serious kidney infection.

However, in true players style, the show still went on and was a great success. My congratulations to all those involved. I am very proud of how the Youth have blossomed and become a great asset to the theatre. I am very pleased to say, that both Margaret and Rod are well on the road to recovery.

Another piece of good news is, that just before Christmas, David Wayne received the all clear from his oncologist and he is now in remission. That's a Christmas present the Wayne family will not forget for a long time.

May you continue your progress. 2020 is the start of new beginnings.

It was also great to see Hazel and George Wilson at the Christmas buffet. I think it was George's first outing since he came home from hospital. It was so good to see them back among us.

May you continue to make progress. Little steps take you a long way.

And so, the new year is upon us. The theatre is still ticking over. Construction has begun on the set for the next play, *Kinder Transport*, which I can't wait to see. In fact, I am prompting it, which is a relatively new discipline for me. I just wanted to be part of what is an amazing play.

**I hope that it won't be too long before we can all meet up and enjoy our hobby.**

*Anne Wint*

### Ian Pearson's Conundrum

Were you able to identify the person responsible for the gags listed in last November's issue? Well you need rack your brains no further....

Ian Pearson-The solution to the question in the last issue regarding the source of the listed jokes was, in fact, that denizen of the magic circle Tommy Cooper and not, as several of you thought, Bob Monkhouse. *Just like that!* There were no jackpot winners this time.

### Paraprosdokians

Ray Rodwell was first introduced to the world of the Paraprosdokian by the ship's Captain on their recent cruise, who managed to include one in his daily address to his passengers. It's a term for figure of speech, familiar to satirists, as it is used typically for humorous or dramatic effect. Its key feature means that the final words make the listener **reinterpret** the first part of the sentence.

*See below for some prime examples*

I want to die peacefully in my sleep, like my grandfather. *Not screaming and yelling like the passengers in his car.*



Going to church doesn't make you a Christian *any more than standing in a garage makes you a car.*

War does not determine who is right – *only who is left*  
Light travels faster than sound. *This is why some people appear bright until you hear them speak.*  
Knowledge is knowing a tomato is a fruit; *Wisdom is not putting it in a fruit salad*  
We never really grow up; *we only learn how to act in public.*  
Why does someone believe you when you say there are 4 million stars *but have to check when you tell them the paint is wet.*  
A clear conscience *is usually the sign of a bad memory*  
Always borrow money from a pessimist, *he won't expect it back.*  
A diplomat is someone who can tell you *to go to hell in such a way that you look forward to the trip.*

### Players 100 Club.

An overwhelming response to the "100 plus Club" resulted in an astounding 120 people joining. The first draw of 2019/2020 season was made at the Social Event at Theatre on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> December.

The following people were winners.

1st Prize of £65 Lesley Sharples.

2nd Prize of £55 Anne Tomlin.

3rd Prize of £45 David Callaghan.

4th Prize of £35 David Lewis.

Thank you to those of you who have joined in to make these great prizes.

Remember you can still join for a one- off payment of £10. ALL proceeds are split equally between prize money and much needed funds for our Theatre.

Hope you all had a Great Christmas and New Year.-Val

### Players Christmas Party Saturday 7th December

Owing to Rod being rushed into hospital the week prior to this event, plans to serve up one of Rod's special menus had to be changed.

However, thanks to everyone rallying round (Margaret Williams, Barbara Harris and Anne Burns amongst them - apologies if I have left anyone out! and providing a super variety of dishes - both sweet and savoury dishes - a wonderfully tasty buffet was served up, where everyone was able to eat their fill. There was great merriment derived from a witty and entertaining *triologue* devised by David Burns and delivered by David, Val and Ian Wilkinson. These ranged from the *very funny* to the downright *deviant* and continued to the *poignant*. We were treated to the writings of Keith Waterhouse, as well as self-penned and quirky items from David (see further on for extracts) through to a moving short story from Oscar Wilde.

It was great that today's PC police didn't get a look in.

All were pleased to see George and Hazel Wilson manage to make it for the evening and David Wayne also delighted the company by his arrival with Val. How great to see them once more amongst us and able to join in our celebrations!

Rod Lambert himself, Keen not to miss it, also came along for part of the evening.

*We wish you a continued recovery Rod and please take it steady.*

November Walk - postponed

As you know Sandra had planned a super November Walk around Rudyard Lake which was eagerly anticipated but sadly the weather was atrocious and very wet during the days leading up to that weekend so she deemed it right and proper to cancel.

Watch this space for a new date.

### Congratulations & Celebrations

#### Congratulations

Double congratulations to *Peter Grieve* who celebrated his 60th birthday on 15th October 2019 and to *him and Geraldine* on their Pearl Wedding Anniversary on 14<sup>th</sup> of that same month.

They would like to take this opportunity to extend a big *Thank You* to all who sent cards, presents and good wishes.

They would also like to announce that their request for donations to Maggie's Centre at Christie's raised the magnificent sum of £860. Again Thanks to all

Also Wedding Anniversary congratulations to *Michele & John Carrington* on their Silver Wedding in August. See an account of their trip to the Shard on page 8.

#### Phillipa's Graduation, 23<sup>rd</sup> July, 2019 by Michele and John Carrington

We were very pleased when we discovered that Phillipa had achieved a 1<sup>st</sup> Class (Honours) degree in Illustration with Animation after 4 years of study at Manchester School of Art. Along with fellow students she attended her graduation ceremony at the Bridgewater Hall on Tuesday, 23<sup>rd</sup> July, 2019 which was an absolutely boiling hot day, not really conducive to wearing 100% polyester cap and gown. Following the ceremony there was a drinks reception in the roof garden of the Art School and then we had a celebratory family meal at Don Giovanni's which serves delicious Italian food. Since graduating Phillipa has been on a short Graphic Design course to 'upskill' and is now job-hunting. Good luck to her!



### **Recipe Corner**

Several of you have sampled some of Anne Burns delicious dishes at our various occasions. In response to requests, Anne has kindly provided some of the recipes. Here is your chance to try your hand at making them (another will feature next month)

## **Yotam Ottolenghi's recipe for Roasted cauliflower, grape and cheddar salad (V)**



**1 large head cauliflower, broken into 4cm florets**  
**90ml rapeseed oil**  
**Salt and black pepper**  
**2 tbsp sherry vinegar**  
**1 tsp Dijon mustard**  
**½ tsp honey**  
**30g raisins**  
**40g toasted hazelnuts, roughly crushed**  
**100g red grapes, halved and, if necessary, deseeded**  
**80g creamy cheddar, crumbled**  
**20g roughly shredded parsley**  
**Serves four.**

Heat the oven to 200C/390F/gas mark 6. Toss the cauliflower with half the oil, a quarter-teaspoon of salt and some black pepper. Spread on an oven tray and roast for 20 to 25 minutes, stirring once or twice, until nicely browned. Set aside to cool.

In a bowl whisk the remaining oil with the vinegar, mustard, honey and a quarter-teaspoon of salt. Add the raisins and leave to soak for at least 10 minutes. Just before serving, transfer the cauliflower to a bowl with all the other ingredients. Pour over the dressing, toss gently, adjust the seasoning to taste and serve

## **Brown Rice Salad with Cranberries, Walnuts, Mint, and Feta**

**Preparation time: 1 HR 15 MIN Serves : 6**

This bright brown rice dish can be served warm, or chilled and served as a salad or side.

Ingredients-

3 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil  
1 red onion finely chopped  
1 1/2 cups of short grain brown rice  
3 cups vegetable stock  
kosher salt & freshly ground pepper  
1/2 cup walnuts, toasted  
1/4 cup red wine vinegar  
1/2 cup dried cranberries  
2 tablespoons fresh mint chopped  
3oz crumbled feta cheese

Method- 3 stages

Firstly In a large sauce pan, sauté shallot in 2 tablespoons of oil over moderate heat until softened, about three minutes. Add the rice and cook, stirring, for 3 minutes. Add the stock, salt, and pepper and bring to a boil. Cover and simmer over low heat until the broth is absorbed and the rice is tender, about 45 minutes. Remove from the heat and let stand, covered, for 10 minutes. Fluff with a fork.

Next Preheat the oven to 350°. Spread the walnuts on a small baking sheet and bake for 10 minutes. Transfer to a plate and allow to cool for 15 minutes. Roughly chop.

Finally Combine rice with remaining tablespoon of olive oil, red wine vinegar, walnuts, cranberries, mint, and feta.

Note: The walnuts can be toasted the day before and stored in an air-tight container.

A Member's response to articles appearing in *Players Matters*.

Ed-Sometime ago I invited members to comment on their pet hates. **Rhoda Hills** took the trouble to write to me.- Rhoda writes - One of my Pet Hates is cold callers who do not know how to speak on the phone-.

Ed-We are maybe familiar with streetspeak these days such as "wicked and sick" used in context to convey an entirely different meaning - i.e.great .But Rhoda has been confronted with **Woke**. She asks **How can anybody be "woke"? They can be cool, canny or street smart but woke?** Has anybody else come across such new additions to the English language? Do tell!

David Burns' recent article about seeing **Nubile dancers** obviously stirred some memories for Rhoda.

*She writes I was taken to the Palace Theatre to see Chu Chin Chow on ice. Then, in my teens, I went to the Ardwick Empire to see Bela Lugosi on stage in Dracula. He didn't or couldn't act! There was a lot of red smoke through which he appeared and disappeared. When we came out into a dark misty night, my friend jumped at every shadow*

Ed-If there is anyone else out there who cares to share a trip down theatrical memory lane with us – do write in!

## **Youth News**

Happy New Year to you all!

Aladdin was another huge success for the wonderful young people of Players Youth Theatre and a box office bonanza for Players Theatre! It was terrific to see capacity audiences of every age (even a babe in arms on Saturday night!) enjoying a good old fashioned panto. This year we had a matinee for the first time and the auditorium was full of Stockport's Rainbows, Beavers, Brownies and Cubs. An enormous quantity of ice cream was sold on Saturday afternoon and particular thanks should go to Geraldine and Peter for the military operation they conducted, having asked for pre-orders and pre-payment of ice cream. Nearly 100 people received the exact flavours ordered!! Also huge thanks to Geraldine for making the food for the end of show party.

Thanks to the back stage crew Pam Lambert (and her helpers), Anne Burns, Pat Crosthwaite, Val Middleton Egan. On stage, thanks to Margaret Williams, Nicky McGregor and Krysy Jorgensson. In the perch many thanks to Peter Thorburn and David Oliver. Prior to the show, huge thanks to Lee McGregor & staging team, especially for the BOTCH washing machine!; David Ward, David Burns and Peter for spending a whole night perfecting the lighting. Extra special thanks to Pat Crosthwaite's husband, Eric who made some of the big props for us.

I am incredibly proud of these talented young people. The applause and laughter & boos & cheers that emanated from the audience was a joy to hear. The members of Players Youth Theatre are disciplined, committed and just simply a perfect example of the best of this Country's youth. How lucky Players Theatre is to have them!

Our next production is on Friday and Saturday, April 3rd and 4th and is a play written by *Valerie Goodwin*, the same author as the Magdalen Whitewash and tells the story of *Jane Eyre* in a very unusual way. This will be the première of this play. Finally, we said goodbye to *Danielle Higson-Dibb* at the end of her lovely feisty performance as *Genie of the Lamp*. She must now concentrate on her studies. She is aiming at a career in medicine which will take her full focus. She has been a member of Players Youth Theatre's Family since before I took over. I call her Marilyn (it's an 'in joke' to do with Marilyn Monroe!) and I'm going to miss her so much. I'm sure we shall always remain friends and I shall follow her future life and career with huge interest. Danielle will be missed by all of us in Players Youth Theatre.

**Good Luck Marilyn!**

BH

## **ACT Awards**

November 15th saw a group of us attending the Association Of Community Theatre Drama awards at the Cresta Court. It was an excellent evening with very good food. Players Theatre was nominated in several categories and Best Actor Awards were

presented to Chris Billington for “Two” and Dan Potheary for “Come Blow Your Horn”

I'm proud to tell you the Players Youth Theatre received the final award of the night for “Notable Contribution To Community Theatre” for *The Magdalen Whitewash*. It was such an emotional moment.

Here are photographs of the certificates being presented. Anne Wint received Chris Billington's



Rob McGregor received Dan Potheary's



I'm not fed up, just shocked and holding back silly tears



BH

*Ed Gobsmacked she may be but I'm sure we all wish to thank Barbara for her continued good work with the Youth. An award, well-deserved*

### **Our Silver Wedding Trip to The Shard in London** **and a Brush with Mary Poppins** *by Michele and John Carrington*

Thursday, 29<sup>th</sup> August, 2019 dawned bright and sunny which was very welcome as it was the day we celebrated our Silver wedding; 25 years of wedded bliss! Harking back to our 1960s childhood and seeing the film then, as a bit of silliness, we had decided upon a trip to London to visit 'Aquashard' a luxurious bar and restaurant on the 31<sup>st</sup> floor of the famous Shard building for *a Mary Poppins Afternoon Tea*.

So, dressed in our 'gladrags' we took the Virgin train to London, arriving bang on time. As we had a couple of hours to spare until our 1.30 p.m. sitting (replicating the actual time of our marriage ceremony), we decided to walk from Euston Station to the Shard. What a lot of famous sights we saw as we walked. We went inside the

British Library (lovely clean toilets!) crossed Russell Square and passed the British Museum. Then on past the Royal Opera House making our way towards Waterloo Bridge. From the vantage point of the bridge we could see the London Eye, the National Theatre and the Royal Festival Hall in one direction and St. Paul's Cathedral in the other. We descended some steps onto Southbank which was full of tourists who, just like ourselves, were simply enjoying the sunshine and the occasional bit of street theatre as well as the bars and restaurants that line it. We were amazed to see a small beach here, at this point on the River Thames, where families were sitting and playing and lots of pleasure boats going up and down. We continued towards Tate Modern and the Globe Theatre - both spectacular buildings- and then stopped to admire the full-size reconstruction of Sir Francis Drake's ship, *the Golden Hinde*, moored at St. Mary Overie Dock. From here we passed through bustling Borough Market to arrive at the Shard. We were subjected to very stringent, airport-style security checks on entry to the Shard itself. Our bags were searched and we had to walk through metal detectors. We were directed by the guards into a lift where a voice from the ether told us "*Do not touch any buttons you will be taken to the 31<sup>st</sup> floor in 20 seconds*" and off we were catapulted, Mary Poppins-like, up into the skies. Arriving in the Aquashard Restaurant we were very impressed with its spaciousness, comfort, courteous staff and the panoramic views from the windows all around us. The afternoon tea was delicious with savoury and sweet items to eat, all based upon the Mary Poppins story, with bespoke crockery, scones being served from a carpet bag, fairground candy floss on sticks and flying kites from the champagne glasses! There were two types of tea available, 'Mary's Tea' which was mild and rose petal scented (delicious) and 'Bert's Tea' which, with him being a chimney sweep, was described as being smoky (not so delicious).



### **The Afternoon Tea**

When we had finished, the staff who were aware we were celebrating our anniversary, surprised us with a small cake which had a 'Happy Anniversary' slogan on a shard of chocolate (get it!!) and we were very touched by this gesture.



### **The Gift**

During our visit we needed to visit the toilets, which were also very impressive. The *Ladies* loos were lined with mirrored teal-coloured glass which proved initially disconcerting because you couldn't tell where the cubicle doors were. This led to lots of comical pushing of panes of mirrored glass by all the visitors, until some of them swung open. The views of London and the river were amazing from here with it looking like the opening credits of the show 'Eastenders' with the Thames snaking its way through the city.



### **A Loo with a View (Gents)**

All-in-all we had a lovely time at The Shard and we left feeling we had celebrated our special day in an especially nice way. Although we decided to walk back to Euston to burn off some calories, we did manage to stop off at the Tate Modern to have a look around, before making a quick visit to the shops on Tottenham Court Road and finally, before catching the train home, we managed to visit an exhibition in the Wellcome Collection called 'Smoke and Mirrors' about the trickery of magic and seances. Very enlightening.

*Ed. Thanks to Michele & John for sharing with us their very novel way of marking a special Anniversary*

### **Future Events**

#### **Vagina Monologues**

On Saturday January 11th, eleven women, known as *Stockport Clitorati*, from Players Theatre and Woodford Players will perform Eve Ensler's powerful Vagina Monologues. It is an evening of emotion from hilarious laughter and audience participation to powerful messages. This is the second time the piece has been performed by this group, the first having been in July last year at Woodford Community Centre. As this goes to press there are only 8 tickets left. The audience will be served with a welcome glass of fizz and interval canapés with 3 of the older girls from Players Youth Theatre acting as waitresses. A raffle will be held with excellent prizes, the proceeds of which will go to **Wythenshawe Safe Spots** which is a user-led domestic abuse organisation. Since 2016, Safespots has supported over 1967 women who have experienced domestic abuse. We are very pleased that 23 of the Charity's volunteers have bought tickets. Stockport Clitorati is grateful to Players Theatre's Executive Committee and technical personnel for their help in organising this special event; Lee McGregor for painting the set and erecting the huge screen; Anne Wint and Chris Burnett in the perch; Geraldine and Anne Burns for making the canapés and Pam's help on the night. Thanks

to the men of Players Theatre and Woodford Players for acting as the FOH staff for the event

For those of you who weren't lucky enough to be at the Christmas Party, here are excerpts from the entertainment courtesy of its author - David Burns.....

And the Christmas Nominations for **SPECIAL CHRISTMAS AWARDS** are:-

**FOR THE ACTOR LEAST LIKELY TO PLAY PUCK IN A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM**

**MATTHEW KING** *BECAUSE HE IS FAR TOO TALL, THOUGH AFTER HIS PART IN THE LION IN WINTER, HE COULD BE SAID TO BE SYMPATHETIC TO FAIRIES.*

**CHRIS BILLINGTON** *FOR THE SAME REASON – AND HE LOOKS BETTER IN A DRESS THAN TIGHTS*

**PETER THORBURN** *BECAUSE HE HAS PLAYED THE PART TWICE AND IS STILL TRYING TO LEARN THE LINES AND HE'S STILL TRYING TO GET THE GREEN BODY PAINT OFF.*

**IAN PEARSON** *BECAUSE OF HIS GAMMY KNEE AND HIS STRANGE BACKWARDS AND FORWARDS MOVEMENT ON STAGE INGRAINED IN HIM, FROM YEARS OF HOOVERING THE AUDITORIUM. HE SAID "I WOULDN'T CARE FOR IT ANYWAY – I MIGHT TURN INTO PETER THORBURN"*

AND THE WINNER IS, OF COURSE, BARBARA HARRIS

AND A SPECIAL AWARD GOES TO

**CHRIS JORGENSSON.**

IN RECOGNITION OF HIS MANY DIFFERENT STAGE APPEARANCES OVER THE YEARS (MANY OF THEM BY MISTAKE), HE HAS BEEN AWARDED THE EXALTED HONOUR OF 'FREEDOM OF THE PLAYERS WARDROBE LADIES'.

NO, I'M SORRY, THAT SHOULD READ 'FREEDOM OF THE PLAYERS WARDROBE'.

LADIES ATTENDED A BRIEF CEREMONY AT WHICH HE WAS KITTED OUT WITH A WHITE SHIRT DISPLAYING A PAINTED-ON FOBWATCH;  
A PAIR OF GLOVES WITH SIX FINGERS ON EACH HAND;  
AND A PAIR OF DRAINPIPE TROUSERS ABANDONED BY DAVE WARD AFTER THEY HAD SHRUNK TO A THIRD OF THEIR ORIGINAL SIZE.  
THE TROUSERS GAVE A SQUEAK OF PLEASURE WHEN NICKY ZIPPED THEM UP WITH HER CUSTOMARY ZEAL. (*HE HAS THE STITCHES OUT NEXT WEEK*). THEN EACH OF THE LADIES INSERTED THE OBLIGATORY CLOTHES PEG DOWN THE BACK TO MAKE THE SHIRT FIT,  
ACCOMPANIED WITH THE HISSED REJOINER "SHURRUP MOANIN' AN' GERRON THE STAGE".

THE WHOLE ENSEMBLE WAS COMPLETED WITH A MYSTERIOUSLY STAINED BLACK FROCK COAT, TORN UP THE BACK, TAKEN FROM THE DEPTHS OF A BOX MYSTERIOUSLY LABELLED '**SAUCY**'- '**DRACULA??**' 'ALL SIZES'-'**SUIT DEVIANT**' - 'FITS IAN WILKINSON'. FINALLY, AN OLD CAP BELONGING TO MIKE RHODES WAS JAMMED ON HIS HEAD, SEVERAL FAKE COPIES OF 'THE

BIG ISSUE' WERE THRUST INTO HIS HAND AND HE WAS SHOVED OUT ON  
TO CHEADLE ROAD TO RAISE A FEW BOB FOR THE PLAYERS.

*HIS CASE COMES UP NEXT WEEK.*

\*\*\*\*\*

NEWS FROM THE PLAY SELECTION AND CASTING COMMITTEE

THE CASTING COMMITTEE HAD A LATE NIGHT SITTING LAST WEEK: IT WAS  
DECIDED IT MUST HAVE BEEN ELAINE'S LEFT-OVER MEAT CURRY WITH CHILLI AND  
PRUNES.

AFTER ANOTHER MEETING, ELAINE BOUGHT EVERYONE A DRINK AT THE BAR:  
FOR SUGGESTING A STAGE VERSION OF 'STAR WARS', SHE BOUGHT SARAH  
**MORGAN A J2-O2;**

A HALF OF STRONGBOW FOR DAN POTHECARY FOR 'CIDER WITH ROSIE';  
A DOUBLE VODKA FOR CHRIS GLYNN FOR HIS PROPOSAL OF 'BLITHE SPIRIT';  
FOR IAN PEARSON'S SUGGESTION OF '50 SHADES OF GREY', SHE BOUGHT HIM THE  
**COCKTAIL 'SEX ON THE BEACH' AND A PITCHER OF COLD WATER.** (*You naughty  
boy*);

FOR HER OWN SUGGESTION SHE BOUGHT A **HIGHBALL FOR 'LOVE AT 10,000  
FEET'**.

CHRIS GLYNN BOUGHT THE NEXT ROUND:

FOR DAN POTHECARY'S SUGGESTION 'THE HAPPIEST DAYS OF YOUR LIFE', HE  
BOUGHT **A HALF PINT OF DRAMBUIE WITH A WHISKY CHASER:**

FOR IAN PEARSON'S SUGGESTION OF 'NUDE WITH VIOLIN', HE BOUGHT **ANOTHER  
PITCHER OF COLD WATER;**

FOR HIS OWN SUGGESTION OF 'NOISES OFF', HE BOUGHT **A GLASS OF DOUBLE-  
FERMENTED PROSECCO**

AND FOR ELAINE, HE BOUGHT **A PINT OF GORILLA GLUE.**

THE COMMITTEE IS CONSIDERING VARIOUS OTHER PLAYS FOR NEXT SEASON:  
THERE'S A PLAY WRITTEN BY MATTHEW KING, WHO GAVE HIMSELF A **DOUBLE  
HERNIA TRYING TO CARRY A DEEP FREEZE FROM CHEADLE HULME TO  
ADSWOOD, ENTITLED 'A FRIDGE TOO FAR'.**

A PLAY ABOUT PRICE-FIXING AMONG BANGLADESHI PIG FARMERS IN IRELAND  
CALLED **'THE CORK ASIANS PORK CIRCLE'.**

A NEW PLAY BY ANGELA DUNNE ABOUT AN INEBRIATED JOURNEY WITH HER  
**FRIENDS AROUND THE CHESHIRE CANAL RING (OR WHAT SHE CAN REMEMBER  
OF IT), CALLED 'THE BARGE OF THE TIGHT BRIGADE'.**

A FRIGHTENING DRAMA INVOLVING VORACIOUS INSECTS SET ON A MOUNTAIN IN  
**THE PYRENEES CALLED 'THE MOUND OF THE BASQUE-WEEVILS'.**

THERE IS ALSO A NEW DRAMA SET AROUND LEE MCGREGOR'S ADVENTURES ON  
**LADDERS, BASED ON TOLKIEN'S CLASSIC AND CALLED 'THE LORD OF THE  
RUNGS'**

AND SEVERAL PLAYS BY SHAKESPEARE'S CONTEMPORARIES, ABOUT WHICH  
THERE IS SOME HINT OF PLAGIARISM:

A PLAY ABOUT A MAN WHO SLAUGHTERS AND SELLS RED DEER CALLED **'THE  
MERCHANT OF VENISON';**

ONE ABOUT A LEGAL WRANGLE OVER A SEE-THROUGH BRA ADVERT DONE BY  
**KEIRA KNIGHTLEY CALLED 'MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING';**

A LIGHT, FLUFFY COMEDY SPONSORED BY THE **DANISH DAIRY MARKETING BOARD CALLED 'OMELLETTE'**;  
AND FINALLY, **A PLAY ABOUT VEGETARIANS FORCED TO LIVE IN PUBLIC CONVENIENCES ENTITLED 'TOILETS AND CRESS-EATERS'**.

*Ed-And if you enjoyed those tongue-in-cheek quips penned by David. There could be more to follow next month.*

### **Social News**

Please note that plans for the mid February social are now changed. Obviously Rod is not in a position to cook a meal for that occasion. He has had a very serious kidney infection from which he is still convalescing and is therefore not yet fit. We will let you know **soon** what will take place in its stead.

***Players were at it again!*** Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> November- 2.30pm saw a small group of wandering "Players" at Abney Court to provide the residents with some Christmas cheer under the direction of Krysy Jorgensson. Once more we raised their spirits. See below the email we received along with a small welcome remuneration which has been added to the Theatre funds.

Dear Krysy

Just want to say a big thank you for coming back to Abney last week. I'm attaching some photos for you as promised. Wishing you all a very Happy Christmas and Best Wishes for the New Year. Will be in touch in the New Year with a view to you coming to Abney again.

Kind regards Gee-Geraldine Clarkson-Care.UK. Com.

P.S. And Players Mascot Millie came too of course, providing a much loved petting session for the residents and dressed for the occasion!

\*\*\*\*\* Well -What a bumper addition this first Newsletter of the Season turned out to be! I can't promise this many pages next time but now you've got into the swing out it.....

A Huge Thank You to all those who sent in articles.

*Follow that* as they say. Please help me to do so, everyone!

I hope you all had a good Christmas and we can look forward to a Happy & Healthy 2020.

The Deadline for the Next Issue is MIDDAY **Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> February 2020** Please note it down. Contributions to Jo Moor 0161 439 9818 or email me at josephinemoor@gmail.com