

The Oxted Players

We have just completed a very successful production of Noel Coward's *Private Lives* with great audiences and encouraging reviews. We congratulate the cast of Jocelyn Mottley, Frank Atterbury, Julie Madigan, David Fanthorpe and Alice Stockburn and the director Chris Hephner for their enthusiasm and dedication. We must also thank Paul Bowles for his excellent set design and to all those who helped him build it. We must not, of course, forget that any production is a team effort and everyone from the technical crew to the front of house team played their part in making the production such a success.



**Frank Atterbury and Julie Madigan
in *Private Lives***

Our pantomime for January 2008 is *Treasure Island* - or *Them that died were the lucky ones!!* - a swashbuckling adventure - *Oo aarh!!* - directed by Neil and Fran Reynolds who directed our successful production of *Aladdin* in 2006. We are pleased to welcome them back and along with Lawrie Houghton as Musical Director they have already launched into rehearsals with great ideas, toe tapping music and lively choreography. We also welcome the return of Barrie Ward who plays Dame Harriet Hawkins and he is joined by a wealth of talent from old and new members. Young *Jim Hawkins* played by Vicki Stanbury and his mum *Harriet* find *Captain Flint's* map and aided by *Squire Trelawney* (Clive MacTavish) and his daughter *Polly* (Laura Brand) set sail in *Captain Smollett's* ship "*The Golden Behind*" to retrieve the treasure. However, they are pursued by *Flint's* vindictive spirit (Guy Hudson) and assorted cut-throats, including the infamous *Long John Silver* (Don Pickett); a feast of fun and adventure for all the family bringing to vivid life RL Stevenson's famous characters. Tickets are selling fast and you are advised to book as soon as possible. Our performances begin on Friday 11 January 2008 at 7.30pm followed by a full weekend of performances at 1.30pm and 5.30pm on both Saturday and Sunday. We then have a two day break before continuing with 7.30pm performances from Wednesday to Friday and then finishing off on Saturday 19 January with two performances at 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Malcolm Le Croisette is in charge of the set design and has

an excellent supporting technical team. Tickets are available now from 01883 724852.

Hot on the heels of pantomime will be the Southern Counties Drama Festival in which we intend to enter two teams again, one for our adult members and one for our Young Players who won the Best Play Cup this year. Our adult entry is directed by Catherine Webber who has chosen ***Last Tango in Little Grimley*** by David Tristram. *Little Grimley Amateur Dramatic Society* is in trouble. The membership has dwindled to 4 and the audiences are not much bigger, and if they don't come up with some rent money soon, they are going to be thrown out. "There is only one thing that sells tickets these days" argues Gordon the Chairman - "*Sex*". Thus begins a chaotic and hilarious build-up to an evening of extraordinary home-grown drama - an evening locals will never forget. The characters required are the Chairman (long suffering with air of authority), Bernard (sarcastic and mouthy), Joyce (not quite with it), and Margaret (haughty, picky, thinks she is the leading light of the Society). Playing ages are 40 plus. A read through and auditions will be held on **Monday 19 November 2007 at 8.00 pm** in the Little Barn. Anyone interested or wanting more information about the play, please telephone Catherine on **01883 724896**.

Our Young Players will be defending their title from the 2007 Festival and Paul Bowles is making his debut as a director and is expecting to make a final choice of play very shortly.

Our Young Players production has now moved to 2 and 3 May 2008 and will be ***The Pied Piper***, a play with music directed by June Brown. We will be able to use the talents of many of our youngsters in this production with some assisting on the technical side. As this is a play with music, we also hope that talented young musicians among our membership will also be involved.

Our 2007/2008 season ends with ***The Cemetery Club***, a delightful comedy by Ivan Menchell to be directed by Mike Rourke. Three New York Jewish widows meet once a month for tea before going to visit their husbands' graves - far from morbid as the title might suggest this is an hilarious but at times touching play with larger than life characters. Mike is holding a read through in the Little Barn on **Monday 10 December 2007 at 8.00pm** with auditions probably the week after. Anyone interested should contact Mike on **01883 623671** and he can give more information about the characters. All auditionees must be paid up members of the Society.

Rhapsody at the Barn

At the time of going to press there are only ten tickets left for this Queen Tribute concert on **Saturday 1st December** and a call to the office will secure them on a first come, first pay basis. **Telephone 01959 561811**