

## Thurso Players

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 U E E I B J A G C P Y R I T N A E B V R H U E A U

Find the following hidden words:

thurso, players, theatre, plays, drama, comedy, music, dance, cast, actor, actress, crew, stage, rehearsal, script, audience, orchestra, choreography, props, wardrobe, lighting,

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## A Big Thank You

A big thank you to the outgoing Committee Members. All at Thurso Players would like you to know how much we appreciate your dedication over the past year.

Thurso Players would like to welcome the new Committee Members. Read Derek's section to find out 'Who is Who'!



Newsletter

Newsletter Date:-  
August 2010

## NEWS FLASH.

THURSO PLAYERS 2010  
PANTO

December 8-11.

This year's panto is Pinocchio, written by our own member Denise Imrie. Andrew Crawford is directing it.

Some of the usual suspects are in the production team. Want to know who? Come along to the auditions and find out.

Auditions this year will be held upstairs in the Youth Club next door to the Mill, on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> August. They will begin at 1pm and could last through to 4.00pm. Juniors need to be high school age in order to attend the auditions.

See you all there!

## Editorial

I would like to thank those of you who have submitted articles for this my first Newsletter - keep them coming! Write about your experiences, your memories, even your future hopes for the Players.

I'd like to take this opportunity of thanking Ken our retiring Editor, for all his hard work over the years.

Joy

joy@shelligoe.co.uk

Article pictures in jpg, texts in word doc. files.

## Whoops XIV “A Story Set In?”

Forty six whoopsers and codgers were to be seen in and around the horizon building during this year's Whoops production. Only six days this year instead of the usual fourteen. how to produce nine sketches, one poem, one piece of prose and musical numbers, in various parts of horizons, with some costumes, props and bits of set?. It seemed at times to be a logistical nightmare, moving thirty actors, most of whom were in at least

two plays, oh, and the audiences, of course. which would be the most logical and time efficient route? Well, three lots of audiences saw and heard a wonderful mix of drama- comedy, tragedy, modern, old, avant-garde. and fun, fun, fun. On the first day both whoopsers and codgers were well outside their comfort zone. however, by the sixth day it was beginning to feel very much like our space. At certain times and for various rea-

sons we all missed being in the mill, but i think it is true to say, that, nobody came away from horizons less than delighted with this unique experience. All our juniors, as usual, did thurso players proud; both with their acting efforts, and all-round pleasantness. They were a joy to work with. Lesley

## The Mill Extension

The extension is looking good and on target to be finished by the end of July. The glazed porch opening into the bar end of the lounge will provide an attractive new entrance. At auditorium level there is additional storage space, much welcomed by the back-stage crew and the new toilet facility off the top floor wardrobe is going to make life much easier for everyone backstage during a production! Responding to advice about disability awareness, a changing area has been made backstage and improvements are being in-

stalled around the theatre such as a hearing loop, nosings on the stairs and upgrading of the disabled toilet facility. The lounge is having a “face lift” with new carpet and furnishings. Our excellent architect, Don Renwick, has kept the building on track, David Dunnett's firm has kept the construction going despite some inevitable problems arising from the old building and there has been a lot of work “behind the scenes” to see the project through. So – now Thurso Players' committee is considering how we celebrate the completion and open-

ing of the new addition to the theatre. PLEASE GIVE US YOUR IDEAS! This is your theatre and the response to helping raise the money for the extension from members' friends and the town has been tremendous. How shall we celebrate the successful completion of the project? Would you like to help? Contact chairman Lesley Jackson ([peterjackson566@btinternet.com](mailto:peterjackson566@btinternet.com)) or Thurso 891429) or secretary Betty Bradstreet ([dbradstreet@btinternet.com](mailto:dbradstreet@btinternet.com)) or Thurso 892019) or any committee member.

## First Production in the ‘New’ Mill

Despite the building chaos of recent months, Thurso Players have been rehearsing a play IMPROBABLE FICTION by Alan Ayckbourn. There was always the possibility that building work would not be completed by the set date, but that didn't stop the cast and crew putting a huge effort into this production. Now it looks as if we'll be able to go ahead as planned, running between 8<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> September, possibly linked to some sort of opening event for the extension -

see press and emails for details! IMPROBABLE FICTION is a comedy with a difference. In the first act there is a meeting of a writers' group; a disparate group of characters who meet monthly to discuss their varied and various styles of writing, in the home of kindly Arnold, who works in a local store, looks after his invalid mother and writes instruction manuals. The second act becomes a fantasy when we see the

‘writers’ transmogrified into the types of character they write about - apart from Arnold, who, maintains a bemused unimaginative acceptance throughout the linked Victorian melodrama, 1930s Detective thriller and Sci-fi drama. As a production it was very challenging it cast also the technical resources of the club, but fun for players and (we hope) audience.

## AGM and EGM and All That Jazz

Thurso Players' Annual general meeting was held on the 12<sup>th</sup> May. Because of a constitutional glitch (no written nominations for the post of Chairman) we had to call an Extraordinary General Meeting on the 26<sup>th</sup> May. Because of building work and consequent insurance implications, both meetings were held in Thurso Youth Club, and as ever we thank them for their good neighbourliness.

Eventually the following Office Bearers, elected committee members and co-opted committee members were in place for the season 2010-2011.

Honorary President  
Margaret, Lady Thurso  
Honorary Vice Presidents  
Joan and Tom Meyrick  
Office Bearers  
Chairman  
Lesley Jackson  
Vice Chairman  
Denise Imrie

Secretary  
Betty Bradstreet  
Treasurer  
Philip Arthur

Elected committee members

Jacqueline Barclay  
Christina Doake  
Eric Maughan  
Audrey O'Brien  
Barbara Smith

Co-opted committee members

Mill Manager (Technical)  
John Firth  
Mill Manager (Building)  
Alan Gerrard  
Professional Programme Manager  
Robert H Roy  
Interim/Retiring Chairman  
Andrew Crawford  
TP rep on SCDA committee  
Fiona Murray

Posts held by members already or not on the committee  
Child Protection Officer  
Christine Firth

Wardrobe Manager  
Betty Bradstreet  
Membership Secretary & Assist.CPO  
Lesley Jackson  
Minutes Secretary  
Christina Doake

Contact details for committee members are on the website or contact through L Jackson (Chair & membership) tel. 01847 891429 or B Bradstreet (Secretary) Tel. 01847 892019.

Members are reminded that any member is welcome to attend all or part of committee meetings. The minutes of each committee meeting are posted on the passageway notice board for reference and date of next meeting.

## CANCELLATION

Regretfully the promotion of Fiona Knowles in WOMEN BEHAVING MADLY in The Mill on 25<sup>th</sup> August has had to be cancelled because the extension work will not be complete.

## Shakespeare United

Shakespeare United no, not a football team, in this World Cup Year we have enough of these, but a chance for the Players to brush up their Shakespeare, and take it to the public. Thurso Players had already signed up for the biggest Shakespeare event which is going to be held in Britain, Shakespeare 2012, when in London Olympic Year it is hoped that Shakespeare related events will be held from Lands End to John O'Groats. Thurso Players, as the northern most Group in the mainland Britain, had already agreed to do the John O'Groats leg of the event, when the organisers let us know that they intended to do events in April 2010 and 2011 leading up to the big one in April 2012.

There was some soul searching as we decided whether we could put something together of sufficient quality, in time, to perform in front of the public. After consultation with our resident Bard Buff, Denise Imrie, we said in true Obama (or Bob the Builder for our younger readers) style "Yes we can".

Denise kindly agreed to break off from writing this year's panto ( for more on this see the News Flash) to put together a suitable show. She immediately recruited our musical maestro, Lesley Jackson and started to put together

some ideas. The first plan was to reprise some parts of the last Shakespeare Play we had performed, As You Like It. The best laid plans...For the first time in a number of years Thurso Players made the SCDA Scottish Final, which was to be held on the same weekend, taking a large proportion of the original As You Like It cast with it.

However, never say die and our very talented juniors stepped into the breach. A whole show was put together, "Where There's a Will There's a Play" including musicians, dancers, singers, gymnasts, actors, placards, processions... all in all a very Shakespearean event.

Despite limited rehearsal time, we managed to pull it all together and on April 24<sup>th</sup> we all set off for John O' Groats to perform it in public. A musical procession down to the harbour managed to attract a straggle of bemused tourists .

Up to the shopping precinct where we had songs from Kiss Me Kate, an interview with the Bard himself, including contributions from George Bernard Shaw and Kit Marlowe, dances from Northumberland to the North of Scotland, concluding with the grand finale, the closing scenes from AYLI.

It all went splendidly, the sun shone, the public

seemed to enjoy it. It was not perhaps as polished a performance as the Players normally give but given the time we had to put the whole show together, it was a triumph. Any small imperfections were laughed off by the cast and it all added to the carnival atmosphere.

We would like to thank Denise for her hard work in putting the show together, our juniors who approached everything with enthusiasm and good humour, the rest of the cast and crew, but most especially our Lesley who not only chose songs, coached reluctant singers. provided unfailing assistance to Denise , but at the 11th hour even dusted off her dancing shoes when (yet another) of our designated dancers went down with a late injury.

It is this sort of "can do" spirit, which Lesley and everyone else in Thurso Players, demonstrates on so many occasions which enables us to put together show after show in such a variety of styles and formats.

On to April 2011 and April 2012, the big one, when once again John O' Groats will echo to the words and music of the greatest of them all, the Bard of Stratford on Avon.

Philip

## TP Review

This is a review from an actor's view point. Shakespeare? I thought that was all old stuff and nonsense! But no - with Denise Imrie in charge - it was bound to be good.

We didn't have a huge amount of time to rehearse, due to Prelim. Exams etc. some of us had only two rehearsals in total - but we managed it and did a lot of practising at home.

I arrived at JOG in costume as I wasn't sure if I should or not - waistcoat, old man's shirt, Grandad's neckerchief and football socks - what a mixture - but it looked colourful!

Trying to find the rest of the cast at JOG was unique in such a small place, I am sure everyone was hiding.. Some of the cast were getting changed, some were chatting away, some little groups were doing their own extra rehearsals, the

rest were turning up here and there.

Then the dress rehearsal started; it felt strange going around the car park of JOG, the odd tourist or visitor saw us and I thought -'this isn't fair, they're getting a free glimpse of the show! As we carried on the director was marking out islands with chalk for people to stand in.

After the rehearsal, there was a long wait until the show started and when it did it was going quite well; it didn't matter that the weather was cold, at least the cast kept warm with all their moving about. The audience were laughing at points where they weren't sure if they were supposed to, but they applauded in the right places - hurray! They seemed to enjoy themselves as well as the cast, but it was slightly strange watching

the show from different angles.

When it was all over, I think the cast were all sad - it was certainly an enjoyable and different performance, especially for the non-adults. It was a shame that more people didn't turn up to watch the performance - maybe on a sunnier day - perhaps we can do it again in Summer ... Denise?

Rock on William Shakespeare!!

James Reade

## Quoting Shakespeare - Bernard Levin, Produced for The Globe 2000

If you cannot understand my argument and declare IT'S GREEK TO ME you are quoting Shakespeare. If you claim to be MORE SINNED AGAINST THAN SINNING you are quoting Shakespeare. If you act MORE IN SORROW THAN IN ANGER, if your WISH IS FATHER TO THE THOUGHT, if your lost property has VANISHED INTO THIN AIR..... you are quoting Shakespeare.

If you have ever refused to BUDGE AN INCH, or suffered from GREEN EYED JEALOUSY, if you have played FAST AND LOOSE, if you have been TONGUE-TIED - A TOWER OF STRENGTH - HOODWINKED - or IN A PICKLE, if you have KNITTED YOUR BROWS - MADE VIRTUE OUT OF NECESSITY - insisted on FAIRPLAY - SLEPT NOT ONE WINK - STOOD ON CEREMONY - DANCED ATTENDANCE - on your LORD AND MASTER - LAUGHED YOURSELF INTO STITCHES, had SHORT SHRIFT - COLD COMFORT or TOO MUCH OF A GOOD THING, if you have SEEN

BETTER DAYS, or LIVED IN A FOOL'S PARADISE, WHY BE THAT AS IT MAY, the more fool you, for it is A FOREGONE CONCLUSION that you are AS GOOD LUCK WOULD HAVE IT .... quoting Shakespeare.

If you think it is EARLY DAYS and clear out BAG AND BAGGAGE, if you think it is HIGH TIME and that THAT IS THE LONG AND SHORT OF IT , if you believe that THE GAME IS UP and that TRUTH WILL OUT, even if it involves your OWN FLESH AND BLOOD, if you LIE LOW till THE CRACK OF DOOM because you suspect FOUL PLAY, if you have TEETH SET ON EDGE, AT ONE FELL SWOOP - WITHOUT RHYME OR REASON, then TO GIVE THE DEVIL HIS DUE if the TRUTH WERE KNOWN for surely you have a TONGUE IN YOUR HEAD .....you are quoting Shakespeare.

Even if you bid me GOOD RIDDANCE and SEND ME PACKING, if you wish I was DEAD AS A DOORNAIL, if you think I am an EYESORE - a LAUGHING STOCK - the

DEVIL INCARNATE - A STONY-HEARTED VILLAIN - BLOODY-MINDED, or a BLINKING IDIOT, then, BY JOVE - O LORD -TUT TUT! - FOR GOODNESS' SAKE - WHAT THE DICKENS! - BUT ME NO BUTS - IT IS ALL ONE TO ME..... For you are quoting Shakespeare.