

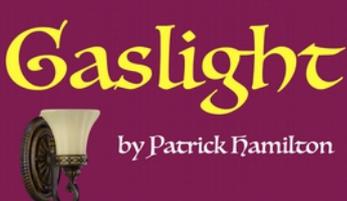
# Canterbury Players Newsletter

January 2016

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## A Few Highlights At A Glance

|  |   |  |   |
|--|---|--|---|
| <p>Canterbury Players present the classic comedy</p>  <p><b>Relatively Speaking</b><br/>by Alan Ayckbourn</p> <p><b>20th - 23rd Apr 2016</b></p> <p>tickets: <b>£7</b> booking: <b>0161 748 8403</b><br/>7:30 pm at the Methodist Church Hall<br/>Brook Rd, Flixton. M41 5RQ<br/><a href="http://canterburyplayers.co.uk">canterburyplayers.co.uk</a></p> <p><small>Canterbury Players Amateur Dramatic Society is affiliated to the National Operatic and Dramatic Association. This amateur production is presented by special arrangement with SAMUEL FRENCH LTD.</small></p> | <p>Canterbury Players present the classic TV comedy</p>  <p><b>DAD'S ARMY</b></p> <p><b>29th Jun - 1st Jul 2016</b></p> <p>tickets: <b>£tba</b> bookings: <b>0161 748 8403</b><br/>7:30 pm at Urmston Sports Club<br/>Moorside Road, M41 5UU<br/><a href="http://canterburyplayers.co.uk">canterburyplayers.co.uk</a></p> <p><small>Canterbury Players Amateur Dramatic Society is affiliated to the National Operatic and Dramatic Association. This amateur production is presented by special arrangement with SAMUEL FRENCH LTD.</small></p> | <p>Canterbury Players present the Victorian thriller</p>  <p><b>Gaslight</b><br/>by Patrick Hamilton</p> <p><b>16th - 19th Nov 2016</b></p> <p>tickets: <b>£7</b> bookings: <b>0161 748 8403</b><br/>7:30 pm at the Methodist Church Hall<br/>Brook Rd, Flixton. M41 5RQ<br/><a href="http://canterburyplayers.co.uk">canterburyplayers.co.uk</a></p> <p><small>Canterbury Players Amateur Dramatic Society is affiliated to the National Operatic and Dramatic Association. This amateur production is presented by special arrangement with SAMUEL FRENCH LTD.</small></p> | <p>Canterbury Players present the classic moral drama</p>  <p><b>An Inspector Calls</b><br/>by J. B. Priestley</p> <p>dates to be arranged</p> <p>tickets: <b>£</b> bookings: <b>0161 748 8403</b><br/>7:30 pm at the Methodist Church Hall<br/>Brook Rd, Flixton. M41 5RQ<br/><a href="http://canterburyplayers.co.uk">canterburyplayers.co.uk</a></p> <p><small>Canterbury Players Amateur Dramatic Society is affiliated to the National Operatic and Dramatic Association. This amateur production is presented by special arrangement with SAMUEL FRENCH LTD.</small></p> |
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## Gareth Bevan - Acting Chairman



It's with great pleasure that I write this in my new capacity as acting chair of Canterbury Players. I'm acutely aware of the history of the society and the combined experience that sits both in the membership and the committee. I see my role as facilitating people to get on with what they do best, so I can assure members that you won't see any major differences as you (hopefully) continue to support our plays. That said, I haven't taken on this role without having some sort of vision. I'd love the society to take a few more risks with its productions, alongside doing the tried-and-tested classics, perhaps even doing productions that have been written "in house" by our members. I'd love to see more members get involved in the work that we do, and with that in mind we've set up a number of groups - which cover play reading, publicity and social events. There are more details on these elsewhere, including our plans for a play reading on Saturday 27 February.

The committee has already set out its productions for the next eighteen months. After *Relatively Speaking* in April, we'll be heading to Walmington-on-Sea for a production of *Dad's Army* as our summer social event. Then in November we're travelling back in time to present a production of the classic *Gaslight*. And we have dates for our two productions in 2017, fuller details of which we hope to release soon. There are further details elsewhere in this newsletter.

The productions are the icing on the cake. None of this happens without extensive contributions from you, our members, and those members who serve on the committee. If you'd like to get involved - or get involved more - this is probably an exciting time to do so. Feel free to contact me, or anyone else on the committee, for more details. I'd also

personally welcome any ideas you, as our members, have about how we can make this society even better for you. Don't worry about how silly you think an idea is - just drop us a line at [sec.canterburyplayers@davyhulme.net](mailto:sec.canterburyplayers@davyhulme.net), and I can assure you we'll consider all suggestions.

Finally, I'd like to add my personal thanks for the huge contributions made by outgoing chairman Jonathan Coupe and his vice chair Laura Fetherston, who have both recently resigned. They've contributed a huge amount in a variety of roles (both acting roles and behind the scenes), and I would personally very much like to see them contributing to the society in the future in whatever way they see fit. The committee have already sent out a number of communications on the circumstances of their departure, but will gladly talk to any members about any concerns they have over recent events.

## Can You Contribute To The Next Newsletter?



We really would be delighted if any members could write us an article for the Newsletter. A review of a book, you've read, a play you've seen or perhaps an exhibition you've been to. You may have done something the rest of the members might be interested in. Please contact David if you have any ideas, photos or an article you'd like to be included.

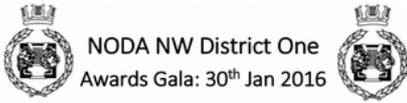
Our newsletters are sent to all members by email and print if required, and occasionally to everyone on our mailing list. To be sure of receiving yours regularly, why not become a member? Contact us for details.

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NODA NW District One  
Awards Gala: 30<sup>th</sup> Jan 2016

I am pleased to announce the nominations for  
**CANTERBURY PLAYERS**

**BEST PROGRAMME (BASIC CLASS)**

My Friend Miss Flint  
When We Are Married

**BEST SUPPORTING MALE IN A DRAMA**  
Rex Mears – Mr Dodds – My Friend Miss Flint

**BEST SUPPORTING FEMALE IN A DRAMA**  
Diane Cornes – Annie Parker – When We Are Married  
Jennifer Coupe – Lucy – My Friend Miss Flint

**BEST ACTOR IN A DRAMA**  
Colin Baker – Tom Lambert – My Friend Miss Flint

**BEST ACTRESS IN A DRAMA**  
Mags Johnston – Maria Helliwell – When We Are Married

**BEST DIRECTOR OF A DRAMA**  
Ann Robinson – When We Are Married

**BEST DRAMA**  
When We Are Married

*Congratulations to all and many thanks,  
Kevin Proctor - NODA NW District One*

## NODA Nominations

We are delighted to report that we have been nominated for 9 awards by NODA (National Operatic And Dramatic Association), relating to our last 2 productions: "My Friend Miss Flint", last April, and "When We Are Married" which we presented in November. Details of the nominations are in this formal notification. Awards night is January 30<sup>th</sup> and 11 members and guests will be attending.

Great news too for CP member Chris Perry who is also nominated for **Best Female Comedy Performance** as **Widow Corney** in Altrincham Garrick's production of **Oliver!**

Good luck to all and have a great night.

## Canterbury Players events in the coming months

- 27<sup>th</sup> February 2016, Play Reading,
- 20<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2016, "Relatively Speaking" by Alan Ayckbourn
- 29<sup>th</sup> to 1<sup>st</sup> July 2016, "Dad's Army" at Urmston Sports Club
- 14<sup>th</sup> July 2016, AGM, at Urmston Sports Club
- 16<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> November 2016, Gaslight by Patrick Hamilton

## An afternoon Play Read (Informal)

Join us around the table at Heather and David's.  
Bring a tippie if you want to, light refreshments provided.  
On Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> February 2016 starting at 3pm.  
We will be reading a play (chosen by Gareth Bevan), you may wish to take a part and read in or just sit and listen, no pressure at all.  
After the play read, we can have a chat about the suitability for production by the society.  
Come and join us, all members are very welcome.  
Please let us know if you're coming.

## Next Production



by Alan Ayckbourn

20<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2016

Ginny goes to the house of her older lover in order to end a relationship and retrieve some compromising letters. The action of the play takes place during a summer weekend in the bed-sitting room of Ginny's London flat and on the garden patio of Sheila and Philip's home in Buckinghamshire, outside London. The time is 1965.

Relatively Speaking had its world premiere in Scarborough in 1965.

The London production in 1967 at the Duke of York's Theatre was Ayckbourn's first London West End hit. It also helped to launch Richard Briers' career, and featured Michael Hordern and Celia Johnson. It has since been staged a few times by professional and amateur companies, and in 2013 a revival ran for three months at Wyndham's Theatre in London, starring Felicity Kendal as Sheila.

Directed by Ann Robinson.

### cast

|        |   |                  |
|--------|---|------------------|
| Ginny  | : | Debbie Dickerson |
| Greg   | : | Damian McHugh    |
| Philip | : | Jonathan Coupe   |
| Sheila | : | Diane Cornes     |

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## Summer in Walmington-on-Sea?

Dad's Army was a British sitcom about the Home Guard during World War II. The sitcom aired between 1968 and 1977, and there were a huge total of eighty episodes spread over nine series, as well as four Christmas specials.

Most episodes were also adapted for the radio. The show was set in the fictional seaside town of Walmington-on-Sea, on the south coast of England, making the Home Guard the front line of defence against an invasion by the enemy forces across the English Channel, which formed a backdrop to the series.

The first episode, The Man and the Hour, began with a scene set in the "present day" of 1968, in which Mainwaring addressed his old platoon as part of the contemporary I'm Backing Britain campaign. It was a flash-back to the founding of the Walmington-on-Sea Home Guard platoon by Mainwaring after he had heard Anthony Eden's 1940 radio broadcast. The final episode, Never Too Old, focused on the wedding of Corporal Jones and Mrs. Fox, which was interrupted as the platoon were put on full invasion alert.



Summer Event to be held at Urmston Sports Club. Audition notices will be issued following our Spring Production, watch our website or register your interest now.

## New Year, new opportunities . . .

The society is looking for a new Stage Construction Manager to replace April who stepped down at the beginning of the year due to ill health. Do you think you might have the skills required? Might you gain from being part of a fun team of creative amateur dramatic lovers?

The Stage Construction Manager is responsible for the organisation of the construction team in the design and construction of the set. Our President Gordon is involved in the design of the sets for each production and will guide and advise the SCM and Director on design. You will have access to Gordon's considerable experience and knowledge.

We have a team of helpers/members who have committed to regularly helping with all aspects of the construction; joinery work, backdrop artistry, furniture sourcing to good old fashioned painting and wallpapering. You will work alongside Bill, our sound and lighting engineer. He too will impart his considerable experience and knowledge to you as part of the Production team. It's a wonderful team effort and there's lots of help at hand from members, cast and committee.

The new Stage Construction Manager will need good organisational skills and be handy with tools. You will be wholly supported by the committee and will organise the logistics of all aspects of the set being mindful for health and safety.

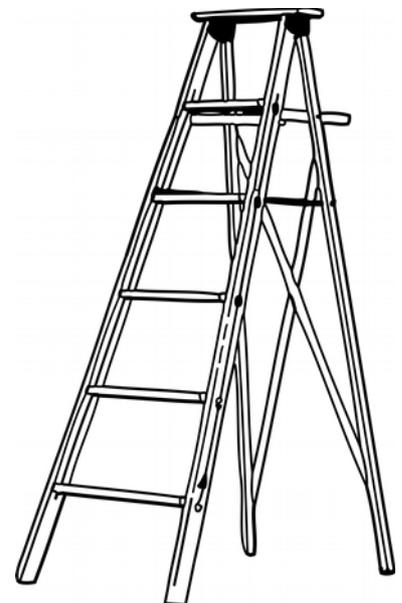
If you would like to know more about the role, look out for our Roles and Responsibilities information which will soon be posted to our website, or contact us.

**YOUR SOCIETY  
NEEDS YOU.  
ENLISTING AND  
BASIC TRAINING  
STARTS MAY 2016**

A feature film has been made and will be released this year starring Catherine Zeta-Jones, Michael Gambon, Sarah Lancashire and Bill Nighy. Directed by Oliver Parker, it will be set in 1944, after the events depicted in the television series. The story will see Catherine Zeta-Jones play a glamorous journalist, who is sent to report on the Walmington-on-Sea Home Guard platoon. This is all before MI5 discovers that there is a German spy, hiding in the fictional British town. Filming began in Yorkshire in October 2014. Ian Lavender plays a cameo role as Brigadier Pritchard, providing a link with the original series.

**Would you like to organise or take part in a group social event to the cinema to see this film? Sign up for our Social Group.**

Gareth Bevan has chosen Dad's Army (with a twist) for the 2016



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## “When We Are Married” reviews

### NODA Review

And here's a short extract from the NODA review of “When We Are Married” (you can read the full review on our website).

“There is no denying that this was the most polished production I've seen presented by Canterbury Players to date - many congratulations to all. Now with the next two productions announced I think the healthy balance of genres being presented has a firm and conclusive foundation and exciting pattern in future offerings.”

### And from our President

Good Luck to all who were nominated for a NODA Award. Well done to you all.

Gordon Wells

Canterbury Players' production of the classic period play, “When We Are Married” by JB Priestley, directed by Ann Robinson was well received by the audience, in November. An excellent set and very good acting made it a great success. It was Ann's first production for Canterbury Players. Well done, Ann!

Congratulations to all concerned who were involved in any way, Backstage, Cast and Front of House. An excellent production.

### A Five Star Review

We were delighted to read this review by Messenger's Julia Taylor.

## Messenger

Canterbury Players have come up with something different. It is *When We are Married*, a classic comedy by J. B. Priestley and a triumph both for them and director, Ann Robinson.

Even before the play starts, the audience gasp with appreciation at the set. It echoes your typical Victorian Drawing Room complete with chaise longues and Windsor chairs. We follow the relationships between three couples in Cleckleywye, Yorkshire, as they prepare to celebrate a joint silver wedding. They were all married on the same day in the same chapel where they shared joint wedding photos. They're all excited about having a similar picture taken for the local newspaper showing them celebrating their silver wedding anniversaries. That is until they get the news that the presiding minister was unauthorised to conduct weddings thus rendering their nuptials null and void Oh, the shame of discovering they have lived in sin for 25 years!

And are they really as devoted to their partners as first appears? Soon their real feelings are revealed Alderman Helliwell and his upper crust wife, Maria are played by Jonathan Coupe and Mags Johnston. They illustrate well the saying “pride comes before a fall”. Colin Baker and Chris Perry play the downtrodden Herbert Soppitt and his bossy wife, Clara. When given his freedom, Herbert dares to have a drink against Clara's wishes. Yes, true feelings are coming out apace as he starts to put his foot down and his glass up. Their roles are reversed in the case of the 'stingy' Councillor Albert Parker, and his put upon wife, Annie portrayed by Aidan Kielty and Diane Cornes. Diane makes sure Annie quickly restores her voice and authority.

All six maintain attuned Yorkshire accents. All of them consider church organist and southerner Gerald Forbes to speak 'lah-di-dah.' Grant Hines' character is indeed quite posh especially when he announces the news about their marital status. Master playwright, J.B. Priestley skilfully arranges the separate appearances of men, women and couples so that the audience can more easily comprehend their motives.

Another character who is a joy to watch is Peter Mungovan as Henry Ormonroyd, the inebriated photographer. Peter plays the role with exaggeration as his character attempts to capture on camera three couples who no longer wish to be snapped - at least with their so-called spouses.

The audience laugh and clap throughout with obvious enjoyment. This play is a big change for the players who usually do either detective stories or farces. Do some more of these classics. You are good at them. I would even say this is one of the best productions the Canterbury Players have ever done.

Star rating: \*\*\*\*\*



## WE'RE ALL WORKING TOWARDS THE SAME GOAL



The committee voted last year for a new way of involving our talented members in the running of the society. We hope it enables existing and new members to be involved in areas of the society in which they have most interest. Your contribution however big or small will be much appreciated, you'll be supported by the committee and the interaction in such groups is always fun.

Three working parties were formed and already have a number of volunteers. Not all groups will meet regularly, unless you choose for them to. You can focus in on what most interests you and contribute as little or as much as you wish. Come and speak to any member for the committee at the AGM.

### The Social Group headed by Heather Holstein

This section will be responsible for compiling ideas for social events and presenting them to the committee. The summer production, group trips to theatre events, NODA awards gala representation, small group events and reunions.

The members will then be involved in the planning and organising the events, it's a great and varied group to be part of and you'll make lots of new society friends. If you would like to be involved in the organisation of any of these events or better still have any new ideas you would like to present, please contact Heather.

### The Play Reading Group headed by Gareth Bevan

This section will meet regularly to read plays together as a group or part of a bigger social event in conjunction with the Social Group. Members of this group can also borrow CP scripts to read in their own time and report back to the group by email or at meetings. They might review plays that they've seen locally or nationally and give their opinion on whether CP might produce them in the future. Plays chosen for proposal by this group will be presented to the committee and produced by the society if the production team agree that CP can produce them. Without this group we lack fresh ideas for future productions, we're looking forward to hearing from you! If you love reading plays, enjoy attending the theatre and have strong opinions on the productions you see, this is the group for you. Please contact Gareth.

### The Publicity Group headed by Judy Coates

Responsible for the publicity of all our productions and of the society in general. This group will help to promote what we do in the local community and in local media. Keeping in touch with other local theatres and Trafford Arts Association. Previous work has involved close relations with the Social Group to arrange events with Flixton Folk Festival and Friends of Davyhulme Park. Posters are a good way for us to promote what we do, can you distribute some in the shops you regularly visit? You could design a board for us to place in our local library or design a poster for our summer event. Write a piece for the local paper, compile membership emails and write pieces for our regular Society Newsletter. If you think you would make a good promoter for our society we would love to hear from you. Please contact Judy.