



ST. MARTIN'S PLAYERS



present



**A Comedy, Directed and Produced by
Stephen Brody and Dave Barnett**

Friday 4 October 2024, 7:30pm

Saturday 5 October 2024, 2:30pm, 7:30pm

at the Huxtable Hall, St Martin's Church, Erith Road, Bexleyheath

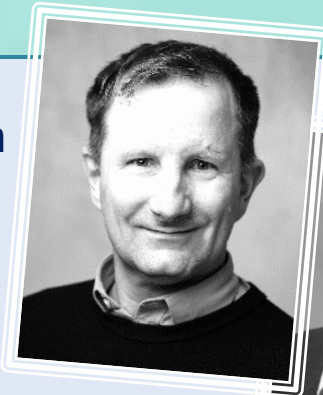
PROGRAMME

£1

This amateur production is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals Ltd,
on behalf of Samuel French Ltd. www.concordtheatricals.co.uk

WELCOME TO THE SHOW!

Welcome to our 96th production, for which we have a new director. Stephen first joined us on stage for our 2020 pantomime and has appeared in most productions since then, but is now trying his hand at something different, with the omnipresent experience of Dave assisting Stephen in his new venture. While we have considered many of Ayckbourn's works in the past, we surprisingly have only performed two on our stage:



Bedroom Farce (1999) and *How The Other Half Loves* (2006). Our Director, while with a different group, has performed in the latter play (in the role of William, played by Steve M in our version) and the play he is now directing (as Tim), so his knowledge of what will work well for us will be a bonus.

Unfortunately, nothing is ever straightforward: while our 'stage on a stage' set was constructed very quickly and costumes and props were all in order, the production has emphasised our group's need for more members – casting is always a challenge for autumn plays with many of our members unable to rehearse during the summer or are away for the performances. We were pleased that Sean was able to join us for the first time, also joined by Wayne in a non-speaking role.

And when we were just a month away, Richard was unfortunately no longer able to continue in the role of Lawrence (though he happily accepted the still-vacant non-speaking role of Max Kirkov); and we are very grateful that Martin has stepped in with just a few weeks ago, learning a new role incredibly quickly.

We hope that you enjoy the show and look forward to seeing you at our pantomime early next year.



If you would like to take advantage of our hearing induction loop system, please adjust your hearing aid to the 'T' setting.

THE WRITER AND THE PLAY

Born in 1939, **Sir Alan Ayckbourn** first gained a taste for writing plays when he was ten years old, and had been influenced by his mother who wrote short stories. In a career spanning several decades and following various acting stints, Alan has written ninety full-length plays, almost half of which have been produced in the West End, and have been translated into many different languages and performed throughout the world. It is believed that he is the second-most performed English playwright of all time (behind Shakespeare).



Ten Times Table was first performed at the Globe Theatre, London, in 1978, with Paul Eddington (of *The Good Life* and *Yes Minister* fame) in the role of Ray.

“The leading lights of the village have decided to hold a pageant of local history on a somewhat vague event, ‘The Massacre Of The Pendon Twelve’. But there’s a young left-wing teacher on the committee who decides to turn it into a rally for proletarian revolution. Committee meetings become symbolic battlefields for conflicting views – the right-wing faction being led by the Chairman’s conservative wife. The event turns into a violent confrontation between the two extremes, with cataclysmic results. Police intervention brings matters to a relatively quiet conclusion, but already another pageant – Romans versus Britons – seems an attractive possibility”.

The action takes place in the ballroom of the Swan Hotel, Pendon.

Act 1 Scene 1 – The initial meeting, Wednesday 3 November

Act 1 Scene 2 – The third meeting, Friday 17 December

Interval: refreshments will be available in the Small Hall during the interval

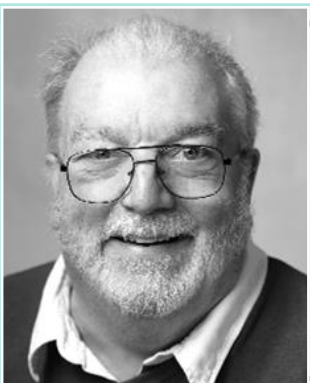
Act 1 Scene 3 – Another meeting, Thursday 19 May

Act 2 Scene 1 – An emergency meeting, Sunday 5 June

Act 2 Scene 2 – Festival Day, Saturday 11 June

THE ‘USUAL’ SMALL PRINT... Please note that smoking is not permitted anywhere in the building. As a courtesy to those on stage and in the audience, please turn off your mobile ‘phone and refrain from using flash photography. Fire exits are located at either side of the stage and at the rear of the hall; in the unlikely event of an emergency, please leave the hall by the nearest safe exit and assemble in the car park. Thank you.

THE CAST



DAVE BARNETT as Ray Dixon

Dave has made more appearances on stage than any other member of the group – and that wasn't always in the role of Abanazar (which he has now played four times) or L/Cpl Clive Winton in *See How They Run* (played twice – he was too old for the part in our third version). In recent years, he has directed and produced a number of plays, as well as playing an ugly sister, a green ogre, a beach attendant and a hospital technician.

STEVE MORLEY as Cllr. Donald Evans

This year, Steve seems to have been typecast into nerdy, irritating, bumbling characters who people can't seem to shake off, having played the lost holidaymaker in *Fish Out Of Water* in May. He has appeared in over forty plays since 1996, enjoys working backstage and has directed five productions with great attention to detail – he will be directing again in September 2025, so once again, watch out for something a bit different...



VAL COATES as Helen Dixon

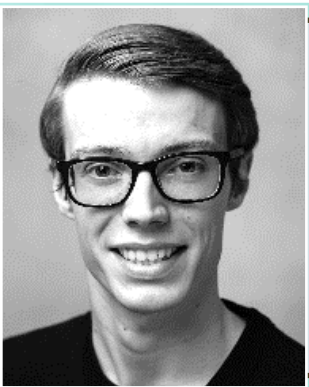
Val's most recent appearance was as the Brigadier's wife on holiday in *Fish Out Of Water*, and is now playing the chairman's wife this time: intelligent, bossy, opinionated women seem to have become a specialty for Val, however in the sixteen years she has been with the group, we know that she is great fun to work with and always throws herself into all roles – always among the first to learn her lines and very dedicated to her parts.



RAE CALNAN as Sophie Barton

Rae is very actively involved in the life of the group, as our Chair, our makeup artist and social media expert. Her most recent appearances were in *The Rats*, So-Shy in *Aladdin '24* and Marisa, the Italian maid in *Fish Out Of Water*. She has directed several productions, including comedies and mysteries (her favourite genre), and will be trying a new challenge when she directs our first radio play in May next year.



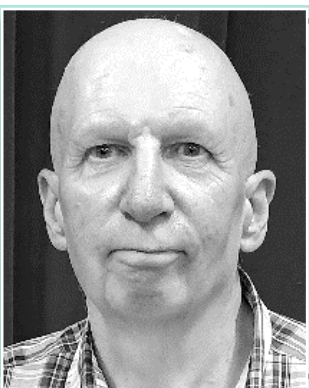


JAMES BELSHAM as Eric Collins

James was just ten years old when he appeared in *Little Red Riding Hood*, and has since appeared in many leading roles – most recently seen as Wishee Washee in *Aladdin '24*, and stripping down to his swimwear in *Afternoon At The Seaside*. In recent years, as well as being involved with other drama groups, James has directed *Move Over Mrs Markham* and has become more involved in set building.

SUE ADAMS as Audrey Evans

Sue has supported the group throughout its history: nowadays she looks after the Box Office and usually takes the lead with Front-Of-House duties, however this time she was persuaded to join us on stage once more. While she has often directed, produced and prompted plays and pantomimes, her last appearances on stage were in *Out Of Focus* (2007), *It's Never Too Late* (2017) and *Agatha Crusty* (2019).

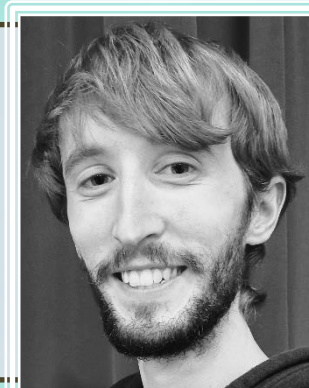


MARTIN STONE as Lawrence Adamson

Another long-standing member of the group, Martin is our group's Secretary. In years gone by, he introduced the group performances at the Danson Festival (using his own scripts) and musical plays. On stage, his most recent appearances were in *It's Never Too Late* (2017), and as Inspector Foley in two of last year's Agatha Christie trio. We are extremely fortunate that Martin has taken on the role of Lawrence at short notice.

SEAN RAMSDEN as Capt. Tim Barton

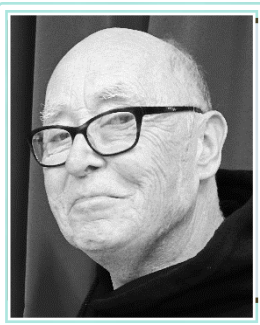
While this is Sean's first time on our stage, he has performed in other shows in Welling over a 14-year period. Recently, he has played a detective in a murder mystery and King Arthur in a pantomime of the same name. Coming up, Sean is taking part in two pantomimes, appearing as Michael in *Peter Pan* in Welling, and the King in "some other local version of *Sleeping Beauty*" – why not go and see both ours and their version?!



VICTORIA JAMIESON as Philippa

Victoria is returning to our stage after a break of a couple of years: her last appearances were in *Cash On Delivery* (2022) and in the title role of *Jack And The Beanstalk* (2020). Like James, she has been involved in our productions since a young age, with her first appearance in *Treasure Island* (2001) – since then, she has been promoted from simply playing housemaids to many more comical roles.

THE CAST AND CREW

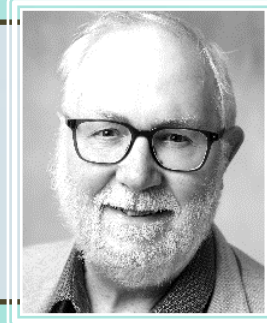


WAYNE OSBOURNE as The Caretaker

Wayne joins us for his first time on stage: having enjoyed several of our recent productions, he became interested in giving it a try for himself, both in a non-speaking role and helping with stage management. Wayne is a fan of West End musicals – he tries to go along to see a show a couple of times each month.

RICHARD PERCIVAL as Max Kirkov

Richard served for many years as our group's Chairman and has appeared regularly on stage since *Pride And Joy* in 1999. Having played pantomime kings and dames for several years and roles in two of our three Agatha Christie short plays last year, he now prefers to support us in smaller roles.



Prompt **DARYL O'SULLIVAN**

Piano Music **CIARA COGLEY**

Properties **MARION BIRAM**

Wardrobe **MONICA CANE, JULIE EXELL**

Make-Up **RAE CALNAN**

Set Building **DAVE BARNETT, DAVID BATCHELOR,
JAMES BELSHAM, MARK BELSHAM
BARRY GAVIN, CHRIS SUGGITT**

Backdrop Art **DAVID BATCHELOR**

Lights & Sound **DAVID BATCHELOR, CHRIS SUGGITT**

Box Office **SUE ADAMS**

Front Of House **FRIENDS OF THE PLAYERS**

Refreshments **2ND BARNEHURST GUIDES**

Poster **DAVE BARNETT**

Programme **STEVE MORLEY**

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR RAFFLE

As usual, we will hold a raffle for charity at each performance. Tickets will be on sale before the performance and during the interval; the draw will take place during final act, and the winning numbers will be announced at the end of the performance.



Dementia UK was formed in 1995 to support those living with dementia. Every three minutes on average, someone in the UK develops dementia, with just under one million people in total diagnosed: while the condition is often associated with the elderly population, over 70000 people live with young onset dementia, having been diagnosed before the age of 65. The charity primarily provides support through their network of around 400 'Admiral Nurses'.

They recognise that dementia affects everyone around those with the diagnosis, and the specialist Admiral Nurses are ready to provide advice for families to give emotional assistance and practical care for their loved ones, whether they provide support in person, via their helpline or in virtual clinics.



Registered Charity No. 1039404

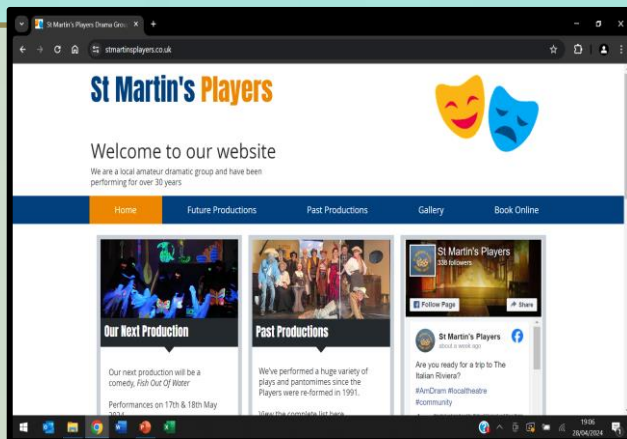
www.dementiauk.org

FOLLOW US ONLINE!

Why not visit our website...

www.stmartinsplayers.co.uk

...to learn more about our archive of programmes and photos from past performances, find out what's coming up and even book your tickets online.



You can also follow us on social media:



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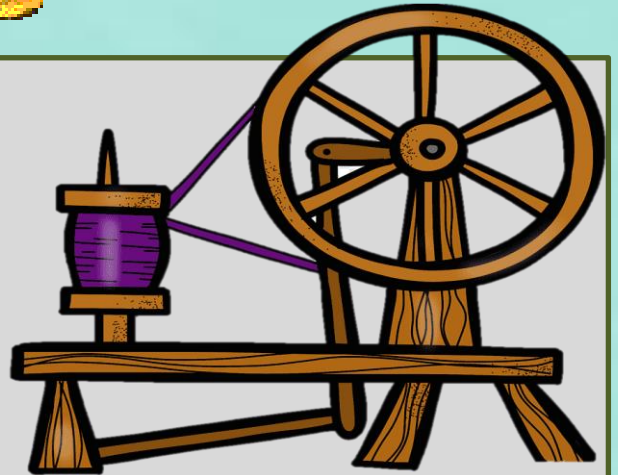
st.martinsplayers

Don't forget to like us and leave a five-star review!

OUR NEXT PRODUCTION

'SLEEPING BEAUTY'

*A Pantomime by Ben Crocker
Directed by Sabrina Bell*



31 January 2025

1, 7, 8 February 2025

Readings and auditions will take on 9, 11, 16 October at 8pm in the Small Hall; auditions for our young ensemble on 20 November.

COME AND JOIN US!

We always welcome new members (over 18s, with opportunities for young people to join our pantomime chorus): whether you want to tread the boards or help backstage, we'd love to hear from you. Just come along to one of our rehearsals (Friday evenings in the Church Hall) or contact us online – we look forward to hearing from you!



Why not start out with just a small role to see if you enjoy it? You could also try working on props or costumes, being prompt or even directing or producing. You could work alongside our experienced members, learning a new skill before trying something else for the next production.

PLEASE SUPPORT ST MARTIN'S



St Martin's Church was built in 1936 and is now in need of substantial repairs to the rainwater system (gutters, hoppers and downpipes) due to water ingress. Unfortunately, the current system is beyond practical repair and must be replaced urgently. Permission has been granted by the Diocese to replace the cast iron system with aluminium; having obtained several quotes, the Church now needs to raise £22500 to fund the project.



It is hoped that the fundraising goal can be achieved through gifts, which would be warmly received, however the church is proposing to run a bond system, similar to when the organ needed to be replaced several years ago, where you can purchase bonds in multiples of £100 which will then be repaid on a random basis when funds come in (such as through fundraising events). The bonds are effectively interest-free loans to the church, and it is hoped (though not guaranteed) that all bonds would be repaid by the middle of next year.



You can make donations or purchase bonds in a number of different ways – cash, cheque, bank transfer or online (and you can also sign up for gift aid). Further details can be found at:

<https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/9832/news/>

QUIZ NIGHT

SATURDAY 19 OCTOBER

6:30pm 7:00pm START

at St Martin's Church Hall,
Erith Road, DA7 6LE

£6 per person

Teams of up to 8 players

To book your place, contact fundraising.stmartins@gmail.com

OUR PAST PRODUCTIONS



- 1991 **Sleeping Beauty, See How They Run!**
- 1992 **Snow White And The Seven Dwarves, Virtue Triumphant**
- 1993 **Cinderella, Continental Quilt, Surprise Package**
- 1994 **Aladdin, Laugh! I Nearly Went To Miami, Post Horn Gallop**
- 1995 **Babes In The Wood, Keeping Down With The Joneses, Play On!**
- 1996 **Dick Whittington, When We Are Married, The Roses Of Eyam**
- 1997 **Jack And The Beanstalk, Pardon Me! Prime Minister, Murder In Company**
- 1998 **Puss In Boots, Pull The Other One, Blithe Spirit**
- 1999 **Mother Goose, Bedroom Farce, Pride And Joy, Last Tango In Barnehurst**
- 2000 **Peter Pan, See How They Run!, My Friend Miss Flint**
- 2001 **Treasure Island, Shock Tactics, Outside Edge**
- 2002 **Cinderella, The Murder Room, Running Riot**
- 2003 **King Arthur, Party Piece, No Time For Fig Leaves**
- 2004 **The Sleeping Beauty, Kindly Keep It Covered, The End Of The Pier Show**
- 2005 **Bluebeard, A Murder Is Announced**
- 2006 **Aladdin, How The Other Half Loves, Noah's Animals**
- 2007 **The Three Musketeers, Murder Weekend, Out Of Focus**

OUR PAST PRODUCTIONS



- 2008** Little Red Riding Hood, Murder In Play,
Toad Of Toad Hall
- 2009** Jack And The Beanstalk, The Day God Died,
Barbecues 'R' Murder, Lady Lollipop, Jekyll And Hyde
- 2010** Dick Whittington, And Then There Were None,
Over My Dead Body
- 2011** Snow White, Alice In Wonderland,
Murder At The New Vicarage
- 2012** Cinderella, Panic Stations
- 2013** Robin Hood, Crazy Capers, Dodgy Deals, The Ghost Train
- 2014** Mother Goose, Henry The Tudor Dude, Murder Backstage
- 2015** Sleeping Beauty, The Wizard Of Oz, See How They Run!
- 2016** Aladdin, Key For Two, Hound Of The Baskervilles
- 2017** Beauty And The Beast, I'll Get My Man, It's Never Too Late
- 2018** Rapunzel, Free And Easy, Love Begins At Fifty
- 2019** Treasure Island, Agatha Crusty And The Murder Mystery Dinner,
Frankenstein
- 2020** Jack And The Beanstalk
- 2022** Cinderella, Cash On Delivery, Who Shot The Sheriff?
- 2023** Puss In Boots, Move Over Mrs Markham,
The Rule Of Three (Afternoon At The Seaside, The Rats, The Patient)
- 2024** Aladdin, Fish Out Of Water



BACK TO BRUNT