

**MARCHAM PLAYERS REVIEW**

In December, the Marcham Players staged three one act plays on the theme ‘Secrets’ at All Saints Church (by kind permission of Eddie Shirras) under the direction of Richard Hobbs.



The first, *What shall we do with the body?*, featured a madwoman’s escape from an asylum and tracked down by her minders to a lonely house. And there the madwoman Miss Pauline Temple [*Jane Packford*], unaware that her companions are the minders [*Cheryll Sewell* and *Dave Hutchinson*], come to take her away. Miss Pauline Temple is masquerading as an author of crime novels. While the minders are trying to humour her, she offers them drugged whisky. They drink it and fall asleep. Then Miss Temple makes her entrance with an axe! Good story, nice axe ... The minders should have been more careful, but that’s the NHS today. I had some issues with this performance. The large spaces of the Church require a substantial voice to project the plot. And there were periods of hesitation in the dialogue, lightened by prompts from someone hiding in the pulpit. The closing scene was good. Miss Pauline Temple’s fondness for axes and necks was apparent, but it could have been emphasised with more melodrama.

In the second story *What brutes men are* we have no less than three mad women; Janet [*Jeni Hobbs*], Carol [*Jenny Warwick*] and Linda [*Tina Hill*]. They are mad at Godfrey. Even Godfrey’s mum Linda has it in for the ‘brute’. There is a fourth woman, a difficult waitress called Mildred [*Janet Frere*]. We discover from his loving mother, that Godfrey has been an irredeemable little sod from the day Auntie Beartice made a fuss of him at the age of three and no one since has lived up to his expectations. So they all agree to go off to a distant town (somewhere up north) to avoid Godfrey, and there to join together in Linda’s new enterprise, a shop to sell cream teas! All mad. If the story has something of ‘the Archers’ about it, the acting was good. *Jeni Hobbs* sustained the pathos of the rejected homely women very convincingly. It was good to see her back on stage and on form after an absence of some years. Mildred’s dismissive attitude to Janet was well demonstrated: pursed lips and flouncing entrances and exits. *Jenny Warwick’s* ‘don’t mess with me’ act was an icon for professional women. She convinced me that Godfrey must have been really quite nice. If we needed further evidence, *Tina Hill’s* imperious entrance produced it.

In the final story *Open Secrets* we were down to one mad woman, Leila [*Melanie Birdall*]: a killer from MI6. She is mad with her boss who has even bigger elbows than she. The play opens: it is Monday, late morning in a Tapas bar. The cook, Tobias [*William Cumber*] and waitress [*Rebecca Peberdy*] are discussing a future together without much hope of making money. For me this was the best play. It had been carefully rehearsed [no prompting], the voices were clearly modulated and the timing spot-on. Particularly impressive was an early part in which Casey and Tobias discuss their life and their hopes: it was fun. Leila brought a sense of controlled menace from the regiment of ‘women in black’ that seem to be everywhere today. This was good stuff. I was surprised to find that it was their stage debut. *Well done.*

*Thank you Marcham Players.*

**RICHARD JONES**

If you would like information on our events or if you are interested in joining the Marcham Players as an actor, helping out backstage or with front house please get in touch with Joey Maclean (Secretary – 391242) or Dave Hutchinson (Chairman – 391964).

**JOEY MACLEAN**

[www.marchamplayers.co.uk](http://www.marchamplayers.co.uk)

**POPPY APPEAL 2006**



You have responded magnificently to the Poppy Appeal this year with a total of £2765.20, an increase of 15½ % over last year. Well done everybody! Our thanks go especially to our house-to house collection team, some of whom had to cover more roads at short notice and also to the Church and our 24 “outlets” who had poppies for sale. The Royal British Legion is most grateful for your generosity in supporting our service men and women at this difficult and dangerous time for those serving in Iraq and Afghanistan. Thank you all.

**SUSAN SPURGEON**

**“Me Little Roller...”**

“I ave me bits of bover,  
They cums from near and far.  
Me latest bit of bover,  
Is with this blooming little car!”



“I ears this sort of rattlin,  
And it’s going frew me teeff.  
I dant no where it’s cumming from,  
But I fink it’s underneaf!”

“Its hell of a noise at Firty,  
And at Seventy there ain’t much sound.  
There aint no blooming noise at all  
When I gets er wheels up off the ground!”



“I parks er in me driveway,  
An lets er all cool down.  
Then I gets me B&Q spanners out,  
An gets down on the ground.”

“I’m underneaf me roller,  
When this fella stops by.  
He said avin a bit of bover son?  
I says yes some oils gone in me eye!”

“He says you want some goggles on,  
And one of those hard hats.  
I fought push off you old fool  
Before you drive me nuts.”



“Oh I can see what the trouble is  
I can soon fix it wif eeze.  
All I wants is a couple of  
Squirts ov very special greeze”

“Im pumping in the greeze like mad,  
Finking this is a silly caper.  
When me self appointed mechanic said  
‘I must go an get me paper’”

“Ive got oil all over ands and face,  
An oil all over me clothes.  
An just to make the situation worse,  
Some has even gone up me nose!”

“Im crawling out from under me roller,  
Finking I’ll check it all again later.  
When a voice said ‘Haven’t you fixed it yet?’  
Oh no hes back wif his paper!”



“I just hope I don’t catch him  
Walking on the road.  
Because temptation will overtake me,  
And I’ll squash him like a toad!”

**M.Shepherd**  
*(Apologies for the Grammar!!)*