

Two (or three) important anniversaries

The carving on the fascia of our stage records the opening of the Church Barn just fifty years ago. The Guild celebrated that event with a production of Christopher Fry's *The Lady's Not For Burning* and the play was directed by one of the Guild's founding fathers, Donald Bain.

Forty years ago we put on *The School For Wives* by Molière. The father of one of the younger members of the cast thought he might be able to give a hand backstage, rather than sit and wait for rehearsals to end.

Now, after forty years and involvement with around 110 productions, **Bert Banham** is still as active as ever, designing and building our sets and, when the need arises, inventing very special effects. Bert celebrated his ninetieth birthday last month and he has our warmest congratulations and thanks. You can see him in our team photo, back row, second from right.



CHARING GUILD OF PLAYERS

A Bolt from the Blue

by
David Tristram

The Church Barn
May 2008



CHARING GUILD OF PLAYERS

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We are grateful to all our Members and Friends for their interest and involvement in the Guild. We are always pleased to welcome new active Members and supportive Friends.

Please contact our Honorary Secretary Valerie Parsons for details. Her address is 54A Queens Road, Ashford TN24 8HF. Tel: 01233 631559.

This Production

Gill Magson will be remembered by many for acting and directing at Charing in the past and we are very pleased to welcome her back again.

Melanie Williamson lives in Selling with her husband Shaun. They met in The Country Players production of *Habeus Corpus* in 1989. Later she did *A Day In The Death Of Joe Egg* in 1990 and then life, work and two children took over. She thanks David Abson for encouraging her to join the Guild [so do we], her husband for his uncomplaining support, her kids Sophie and Joe for helping her with her lines and everyone in the Society for being so welcoming and such great fun to rehearse with. She says 'The talent of the backstage/technical guys is incredible and I have well and truly got the bug and look forward to this and future productions'.

Karen Wright joined the Guild this year after a long absence from the stage. Her previous credits include: Cynthia in Tom Stoppard's *The Real Inspector Hound*; Louise Rafi in Edward Bond's *The Sea*; Vladimir in an all-female production of Samuel Beckett's *Waiting For Godot*; and Lou in Joe Orton's *The Erpingham Camp*. She has also directed *A Night Out* by Harold Pinter. Karen lives near Hothfield. She splits her working life between healthcare management consulting and volunteering at the Wildlife Heritage Foundation – a big cat conservation charity in Smarden (www.whf.org.uk).

A Bolt From The Blue

by David Tristram

About the play

As you may know, we have had a few problems in preparing plays for you in the last couple of years. Somehow it has been difficult to maintain our regular offering of three plays a season. Our apologies.

Perhaps, therefore, we bring you *A Bolt From The Blue* with extra pride. There's no denying it's different. It has stretched us in every department, but staging, casting and technical challenges seem to have responded to creative ingenuity from every member of our production team.

We won't try to explain the story here. Wait for the curtain to rise and then follow the extraordinary tale of Edward Jones, aged very nearly forty, and his encounter with that bolt from the blue. Logic, science, nature? All all over the place. A quiet life? A thing of the past.

We hope you agree with the critic who wrote that David Tristram's writing is 'touched with comic genius'. You may remember his *Forget-Me-Knot* that we did five seasons ago. The two plays have more in common than just topiary peacocks.

Have fun. We will.

Cast

Edward Jones	Rayner Missing
Narrator 1	Melanie Williamson
Narrator 2	Valerie Parsons
Farmer	Mark Woods
Fire Chief	Mark Woods
Paramedic 1	Gill Magson
Paramedic 2	Jan Campailla
Mary Jones	Felicity Avery
Mr Rogers	Graham Spittle
Doctor	Gladys Lopato
Receptionist	Cherie Hamlet-Smith
Ted Nugent	John Easun
Nurse	Gill Magson
Sarah Appleby	Karen Wright
Martin, Mary's brother	Mark Woods
American Newsreader 1	Mark Woods
American Newsreader 2	Gladys Lopato
Reporter	Cherie Hamlet-Smith
DC Jarvis	Natalie White
DI Thompson	Mark Woods

The Play directed by Michael Headley and Marian White

Time: The present

Act 1

Interval

Act 2

Stage Manager	Peter Goldsmith
Assistant Stage Manager	Melanie Brown
The Set designed by	Bert Banham and Ann Blandford
The Set built & painted by	John Avery, Bert Banham Ann Blandford, Allan Bone Jean Latter, Brian White
Backstage Crew	Bert Banham, Jean Latter
Stage Lighting by	Anton Banham Patrick Seggery
Sound Prepared by and Operated by	Michael Headley Allan Bone
Costumes by	The Cast
Properties by	Jan Campailla, Alan Smith
Publicity by	Marian White
Poster Design by	Michael Headley
Front of House	
Floral Arrangement by	

The Charing Guild of Players thanks all those
who have helped with this production.