

Peter Goldsmith 19??-2009

When the Charing Guild of Players put on their first ever pantomime in January 2001 we knew that it represented a new direction for our productions. We are still feeling the benefit.

When we presented our next play – *Day Of Reckoning* by Pam Valentine, which included some of our newer members – we were again fortunate. This was the first play directed for us by Peter Goldsmith. He was reticent at the time about his theatrical history; he was clear that his acting days were over but he would be happy to carry on directing until everybody was fed up with him. Of course, we never were.

His last, and fifth, production for the Guild was *The Weekend* by Michael Palin. Like those before it, he was happy to let the play mature in rehearsal, allowing his cast to become confident in their parts. Nevertheless, he had definite views about amateur theatre and prided himself on being sparing with praise. It was good to hear him relent from time to time.

When not directing, he was frequently ready to offer his services as Stage Manager. He was an enthusiastic member of the Reading Committee, quick to spot the possible (or impossible) and often recalling plays that he had previously been involved with in other drama groups. His extensive knowledge also helped him assemble a programme of sketches for an evening of revue.

The Guild has lost a loyal and dependable friend in Peter. He will be greatly missed by all of us, and we extend our sympathy to Jennifer who helped him bear his difficult last months of illness.