

## A Brief History of the Guild

We believe that there was amateur drama in Charing before World War II but it was not until December 1946 that the Reverend Peter Birkett formed the Charing Guild of Players. Six days later, on Christmas Eve, they performed a Pageant of the Nativity.

Surprisingly there is no record of any further activity until six years later when in December 1952 Quiet Weekend was performed in the Village Hall. Over the next five years there were another five productions, all in the Village Hall.

The Guild's first production in the Barn, in May 1958, was Christopher Fry's *The Lady's Not For Burning*. The author visited the Barn during rehearsals. From then on the Guild has produced plays every year, a total by now of well over a hundred.

The Guild scrapbooks, with photographs and programmes, make interesting reading and are displayed at performances. The close relationship between the Guild and the Church came about through the interest of our Charing vicars in drama. This still continues; the present vicar, Brian Chalmers, is both actor and producer. The Barn belongs to the Church and is home to the Guild who have contributed in time and money to its upkeep and improvement over the years.

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THE CHARING GUILD OF PLAYERS  
PRESENTS

## The Curious Savage



50p

*A comedy drama by John Patrick*

**Thursday 12th, Friday 13th, Saturday 14th November 2015**

# A brief synopsis of play

Mrs Savage has been left \$10 million by her husband and wants to make the best use of it, in spite of her grown-up stepchildren's efforts to get their hands on it. Knowing that the widow's wealth is now in negotiable securities, and seeing they cannot get hold of the fortune, the stepchildren commit her to a sanatorium hoping to bring her to her senses. In the sanatorium Mrs Savage meets various social misfits, men and women who just cannot adjust themselves to life, people who need the help Mrs Savage can provide. Getting to know them, she realises that she will find happiness with them and planned to spend the rest of her life as one of them. But when the doctor tells her there is no reason why she should remain, she hesitates to go out into the hard world where people seem ready to do anything for money.

The self-seeking stepchildren are driven to distraction by their vain efforts to browbeat Mrs Savage, but she perseveres her equanimity and leads them on a merry chase.

## The Guests

Florence Williams: Sarah Trotter  
Hannibal: Peter Lilley  
Fairy May: Karina Hymers  
Jeffrey: Rob Francis  
Mrs. Paddy: Gill Magson  
John Thomas: Alfie Boyan

## The Players

### The Family:

Senator Titus Savage: Mark Woods  
Judge Samuel Savage: Nick Hawley  
Lily Belle: Carolyn Banham  
Mrs. Ethel P. Savage: Valerie Parsons

### The Staff:

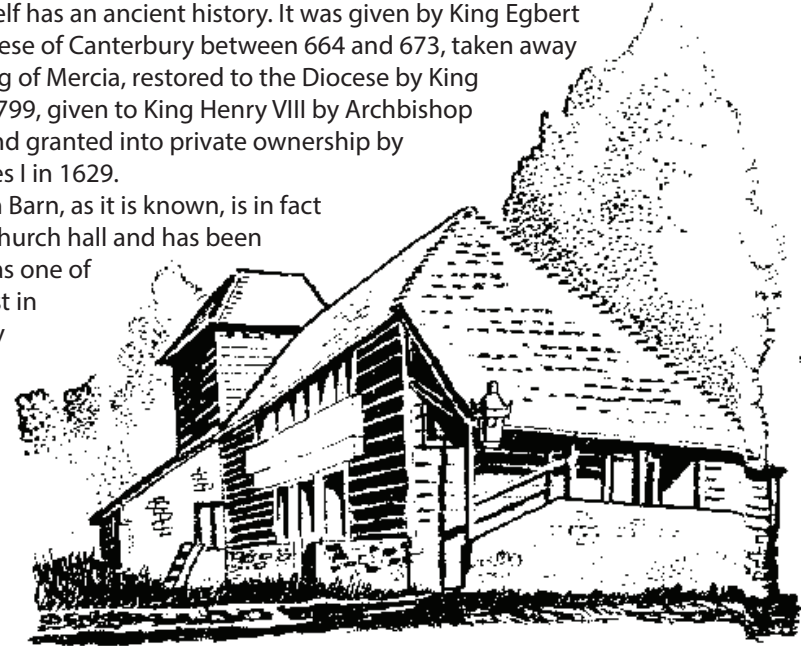
Dr. Emmett: Ian Avery  
Miss "Willie" Wilhelmina: Louise Payne

# The Barn

In 1956 the vicar, the Reverend Patrick Lury, with parishioners and Guild members had paid £100 for a seventeenth century tithe barn in High Halden. Its fine old timbers were lovingly dismantled and rebuilt over a period of two years on a site adjoining Charing Church.

The site itself has an ancient history. It was given by King Egbert to the Diocese of Canterbury between 664 and 673, taken away by Offa King of Mercia, restored to the Diocese by King Coenulf in 799, given to King Henry VIII by Archbishop Cranmer and granted into private ownership by King Charles I in 1629.

The Church Barn, as it is known, is in fact Charing's church hall and has been described as one of the loveliest in the country



## THE CHARING GUILD OF PLAYERS

**PATRON** REV SHEILA COX

**CHAIRMAN** CAROLYN BANHAM

**DEPUTY CHAIRMAN** JOHN EASUN

**HONORARY SECRETARY** VALERIE PARSONS

**HONORARY TREASURER** PETER LILLEY

**COMMITTEE** ANTON BANHAM

NICK HAWLEY

MICHAEL HEADLEY

JEAN LATTER

GILL MAGSON

JOHN ROBERTS

KAREN WRIGHT

# Curious Word Search

N	T	A	H	C	O	M	E	D	Y	P
E	G	A	V	A	S	U	K	Z	E	S
W	E	G	D	U	J	I	Y	R	G	E
S	B	O	N	D	S	R	F	R	A	N
P	E	C	N	E	R	O	L	F	T	A
A	P	U	C	T	R	T	S	C	S	T
P	I	G	H	M	O	A	R	O	T	O
E	N	Y	A	H	H	N	A	D	E	R
R	S	N	R	V	T	A	L	F	P	M
Z	C	L	I	I	U	S	L	I	C	V
E	X	A	N	O	A	W	O	S	H	R
O	F	B	G	L	M	F	D	H	I	C
Y	T	I	C	I	R	T	C	E	L	E
D	E	N	R	N	P	T	A	O	D	H
D	D	N	O	E	S	E	I	E	R	T
A	D	A	J	A	F	S	N	N	E	E
P	Y	H	C	Z	T	L	D	S	N	B
B	U	T	T	E	R	M	I	L	K	C
Q	C	U	R	I	O	U	S	E	F	A
P	R	S	T	I	F	S	I	M	S	M

AUTHOR  
CAST  
CODFISH  
DOLLARS  
FIREFLIES  
HAT  
MISFITS  
PENS  
SANATORIUM

BONDS  
CHARING  
COMEDY  
ELECTRICITY  
FLORENCE  
JUDGE  
NEWSPAPER  
PERFORMANCE  
SAVAGE

BUTTERMILK  
CLOISTERS  
CURIOUS  
FAIRY  
HANNIBAL  
MACBETH  
PADDY  
PINS  
SENATOR

**7.30pm**

## ACT I

**Scene 1 Night**

**Scene 2 The next morning**

**Short 15 minute interval**

**Raffle**

## ACT II

**Scene 1 That night, after dinner**

**Scene 2 A few nights later**

## ACT III

**A few minutes later**

**The scene is the living-room of "The Cloisters"**

## The Charing Guild of Players

If you are interested in having a go at some acting or want to help utilise your skills in stage construction and making costumes or helping with "Front of House" you are very welcome to contact Valerie Parsons Tel 01233 631559 or eMail [valerieaparsons@hotmail.com](mailto:valerieaparsons@hotmail.com) **[www.CharingGuild.com](http://www.CharingGuild.com)**



Director & Producer: Carolyn Banham  
 Assistant Producer: Richard Austin  
 Set build: Allan Bone, Brian White  
 Jean Latter, Peter Cripps  
 Anne Winograd  
 Lighting: Anton Banham  
 Sound: Michael Headley  
 Stage Manager: Allan Bone  
 Advertising: Richard Austin  
 Gill Magson  
 Props: Richard Austin & Crew  
 Costume, Hair and make up: Richard Austin, Sharon Low  
 Assistant Stage Manager: John Easun  
 Front of house: Jean Latter, Brian White  
 Anne Winograd, Sue Cripps  
 Box Office: Charing Stores

## The Directors Ponderings

The Guild first performed 'The Curious Savage', in April 1986, almost 30 years ago!! I played the part of Lily-Belle, which remains one of my most enjoyable roles to this day. Any actor will tell you it's always more fun playing the 'baddie'!!

The play too has always been one of my favourites. It is a gentle comedy with a wonderful characters, contrasting the kindness and loyalty of the Residents of the Cloisters with the avarice and vanity of the 'respectable' public figures, it calls into question conventional definitions of sanity while lampooning celebrity culture. They certainly seem to live up to their name!! Into this mix comes the wonderfully eccentric character of Ethel Savage. She finds it hard to fit in to the 'real' world outside, yet doesn't quite belong in the 'eggshell' world of The Cloisters either, even with the warm, kind hearted staff.

I was delighted to have the opportunity of directing this beautiful play, despite the stress and sleepless nights I always seem to have!! Obviously I am a glutton for punishment! Along the way though, I have been supported by a great backstage team and the enthusiasm of Richard Austin, who has kept me on my toes!

I sincerely hope you enjoy this funny, at times, moving play as much as I do. And if the final scene doesn't 'get' you, you're hard!!

CAB

## Behind the scenes

This is a behind the scene look at the players.

