



CHAIR'S REPORT ON 2005

PERFORMANCES

- ***Fallen Angels***, by Noël Coward, May. I directed and Rachael Orchard produced, assisted by Ruth Morgan. Excellent audience feedback on acting and set (thanks to Ruth for set dressing and Gary Arthur for design).
- **Mummers' play**: a team effort led and inspired by Ronald Stevenson, performed as part of *Kings and Liberties* (the Huntingdon 800 production), and also as part of the entertainment at the Mediaeval Banquet, and at the Peterborough Festival.
- ***From Mafeking to the Millennium: Huntingdon and the World in the 20th century***, November. Compiled, directed and produced by Ann Monk and me. It was very good that several people from *Kings and Liberties* wanted to join the Club, and *M2M* had a cast of 16 – but unfortunately not the ticket sales to match, despite photographs in local newspapers. Positive feedback from audience.

OTHER EVENTS

- Trip to see ***Round the Horne – revisited*** in London (April)
- **Horse racing and music** at Huntingdon Racecourse (June)
- **Lunch party** at Ronald Stevenson's (September)
- ***The Direct Approach*** – directing workshop, led by Valerie Gerrard (November)
- **Burns Night supper**, provided by Ronald Stevenson (January 2006)

NEWSLETTERS AND WEBSITE

- Mark Lamberth produced nine excellent newsletters during the year. Additional emails were sent to members and supporters, including notification of the AGM and other events.
- John Morgan has kept the website up to date, and made the newsletters available on it. There have been approximately 800 hits in the past year. Our attempts to get the Club's last but one website (last updated in 1999) removed have failed.

VARIOUS

- **Making people aware of the Club's existence:** this was helped by members taking part in *Kings and Liberties* (including the performance for Princess Anne), and the SIMADS production of *Fiddler on the Roof*; helping front of house at PaTCH events at the Commemoration Hall; joining the Huntingdon Community Liaison Group; and building up contacts with the Town Council and others.
- **Commemoration Hall:** with the appointment of Lydia Eldridge as Artistic Director, and plans for a fuller programme of events, we're likely to benefit from the publicity.
- **Huntingdon Community Liaison Group:** this first met in February 2006, and should prove a useful way to publicise the Club to other local organisations and the press.

COMMITTEE

- My thanks to the other 7 committee members for their hard work, good ideas and good company during the year. It was a relief not to have any resignations.

PLANNED AND RECOMMENDED ACTIVITIES IN 2006

- ***Silhouette***, a comedy whodunnit by Simon Brett, directed by Jacquie Spencer, produced by Rachael Orchard. March 9-11. It's essential for the Club's survival that plenty of tickets are sold. Efforts to build up audiences include:
 - sending 10 tickets to Club members and asking them to sell them (this achieved audiences of 120 a night in 1988)
 - selling tickets at the Tourist Information Centre
 - selling tickets at the Commemoration Hall (an offer by Lydia Eldridge)
 - having a non-paying audience at the dress rehearsal.
- ***Move over Mrs Markham***, a farce by Ray Cooney and John Chapman, to be directed by me. November 9-11.
- **Making people aware of the Club's existence:** this should be a priority for the next Committee, for example through
 - contact with drama clubs and other organisations
 - further improvements to publicity of productions
 - getting more people to attend performances and social events.
- **PayPal:** information is available for the next committee to look into online booking and payment.
- **Personal licence:** the new committee should consider funding a member to get a personal licence for serving alcohol.

Michael Black
AGM, 27 February 2006