



**Society** : Faringdon Dramatic Society.  
**Production** : Jack and the Beanstalk.  
**Date** : 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2013.  
**Venue** : Faringdon Primary School.  
**Report by** : Gareth Jeremy – Region 12 – London.

## Report

It was a pleasure to visit your Society once more, and how refreshing it was at the end of the evening, having enjoyed the performance of **Jack and the Beanstalk, written by your very own Peter Webster.**

Over the years that I have been attending your shows, -- you are so fortunate to have such a talent in the area, not only for performing on stage, but for so many other aspects of 'Theatre Work'.

**The Costumes, designed, and made by Jeni Summerfield, Joan Lee, Lynda Bates, Rosa Diliberto, and Michala McIntyre, were equal, if not better than those seen on many a professional stage.**

The Hen costume, the cow, were brilliant. Do you ever put on your web site that you have costumes to hire? -- I'm sure you would have many Societies interested, once the word got around, -- and with costumes now costing £ 25, each to hire, from many costumers, -- it could be worth your while.?

**The Set, designed by Jo Webster, and built and painted by members of the crew, -- Peter Webster, Carole Tappenden, Jeff Barry, Richard Lock, and Alan Merrick, with Claire Isham being a member of the stage crew.**

The backcloth of Dolly's Dairy was well painted, and the enormous beanstalk was well constructed.- the Ogre's chair was also very impressive, -- and the **Lighting design of Ian Chandler, -- 'put the icing on the cake', as it were, -- and this was operated most affectively by Paul and Tim Mountford – Lister.**

The set looked most impressive when we had the pale blue light and quarter moon shinning down on the dairy. Well done to everyone.

**Musical Director, -- Debra Warner, had assembled a very polished Orchestra, -- the right balance of instruments, to suite the voices on stage.**

**I liked the choice of music for the show, from popular songs, to the more modern, which were well sung by both principals, and chorus. -- and the level of sound from the 'pit', never drowned those on stage. -- Congratulations to you all in the pit.**

**Director – Peter Webster,-- had a very experienced principal line up, and everyone worked for each other. The show had pace, and good use was made of the entrances, and exits, and the use of the main auditorium, and 'platform' stage where the 'Sprites', -- Holly and Lottie Carlisle, Ellie Hickman, Imogen Hunt, Catlin Nicholls, Molly Westall, danced and sung in their splendid costumes.**

All members of the cast gave of their best, and it was obvious they had enjoyed being in the panto, -- and with so much audience participation, -- it made for a 'fun' evening. One member of the audience, making up for many of the others!

**The whole large chorus enjoyed every moment they were on stage, -- the four chicks, six Ogre's Servants, and the eleven other chorus members reacted to all that went on around them, and sang each song,-- as some would say, -- 'with plenty of welly'.?**

**The Main Cast.**

**Dolly Dainty, -- ( owner of the Dairy ), -- Joan Lee.**

This part suited this experienced actress, -- good diction, and she looked so good in her fantastic costume. I did like the hat, and shoes with the different



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'cheeses', as part of the decoration.! A good understanding between her and Jack, and I liked some of the facial expressions when **Fussbudget**, was demanding his rent.

A very good performance.

### **Jack, ( her son ). --- Suzanna Carter.**

As in previous productions, -- the part suited her. She was very relaxed, and always in complete command of her character. Her songs were well within her range, and the duets with Florence, were a joy to listen to.

Another first class performance.

### **Magnesia ( a cow ), -- front part, -- Debbie Lock.**

**Rear, --- Katie Dyet.**

A very well behaved cow, -- must have been difficult to learn your lines,!, -- but the rear end needed a medal for finding their way around on a subdued light on stage. Well done to you both, in a superb costume.

### **Farmer Fussbudget, ( Dolly's land lord. ) -- Gary Field.**

Looked good on stage, -- in a costume that showed perhaps his wealth, -- good clear diction, perhaps there could have been a little more variety in his tone of voice at times, especially when he needed the rent to be paid.- the contrast of character at the end came over very well.

### **Florence Fussbudget ( his daughter ), -- Andrea Smith.**

Looked good on stage, and worked well opposite Jack, -- good clear diction, and again was very relaxed in her character role. Pleasant singing voice, and never tried to force her solos.--- an enjoyable performance.

### **The Ogre, --- Duncan Sinclair.**

Came over well, as the 'baddie', in a fine costume that immediately made you feel like 'the person that everyone hates'. He seemed to revel in it, especially when he had some 'audience participation'.---and the way he spoke to **Drudge, and Dogsboddy, and his servants.** -- a good interpretation, and I liked his **make up.**

### **Wiseacre ( a wizard ). --- Richard Palacio.**

This is the first time I have seen Richard on stage, - he understood his character, and his timing was very good, -- the contrast between he, and the Ogre came over to the audience very well., -- and his diction was good.

### **Drudge, ( assistant to the Ogre ) -- Helen Thrower.**

### **Dogsboddy. ( another assistant ), -- Verity Roberts.**

I do not wish to separate these two characters, as they performed as a TEAM to very good effect. They bounced off each other to very good effect. Good diction, and very special eye contact especially from Dogsboddy.

A very entertaining performance from you both, which you seemed to have enjoyed immensely., -- well done.



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**Report****The Hen ( who lays golden eggs ). -- Jo Webster.**

A superb costume, and excellent make up.—how much practice did you have in front of the mirror, to perfect your ‘clucking’, before laying those ‘golden eggs’.

A brilliant performance. Congratulations.

**Honesty, - ( Ogre’s slave ) --- Lottie Allum**

**Hugo, ( another slave ), -- Benjamin Gee.**

**Max ( yet another slave ) -- - Matthew Warner.**

**Rose, -- ---- Olivia Byers.**

**Lizzie, -- --- Courtney Goodwin- Diliberto.**

All the above characters entered into the spirit of the pantomime, and delivered their lines with intent, and very good diction. Well done to you all.

As we all know, no pantomime would be complete without ‘**audience participation**’, -- **and this year was no exception, when we in turn joined in singing, -- ‘ Hold a chicken in the air etc, --- and at the end – the clapometer registered 8 out of 10!!!.**

As we all appreciate no performance would be complete without those ‘hard working **Front of House Team, -- who produce the – Programmes, Publicity,-- welcome us for the evening, --- and it is nice to see so many in your Faringdon Sweat shirts, and some displaying their NODA Long Service Medals.**

The final song summed up the evening for me, -- of the **TEAM WORK** you have in your Society, --- ‘Put love in your heart, -- the world would be a better place.—how apt are those words.?’

Thank you once again for another thoroughly entertaining evening, -- and I went home once again with a prize from the raffle !

I wish you every success with your next production in June, -- and I hope it does not snow !!!

*Gareth Jeremy, --- London Region – District 12.*

*PS – Please enter your Set for the Set Prize at the AGM, which will take place on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> July 2013.*

*Details will be available from your Secretary around April time.*