

Faringdon Dramatic Society

affiliated to NODA  presents a comedy . . .

AGATHA CRUSTY and the Village Hall Murders

by Derek Webb



THURSDAY 10th NOV
to SATURDAY 12th NOV

Corn Exchange
Faringdon

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Agatha Crusty and the Village Hall Murders

A comedy by Derek Webb

Agatha Crusty (pronounced *Croosty*) is a crime novelist. She's also pretty adept at solving crimes. And when her sister-in-law Alice invites her to spend a few days with her in the village of Chortelby, it's not long before she gets caught up in a series of murders which seem directed at members of the All Saints Village Hall committee.

From Toby the Vicar, and Eleanor the Chair of the committee, to Harry Knott the caretaker and identical twins Olivia and Oliver Truscott-Pratt, there are plenty of suspects. And with an investigating officer as incompetent as DI Twigg, there are plenty of laughs as the murders begin to pile up.

Act I

Scene 1: Daytime, Monday
Scene 2: Afternoon, Tuesday
Scene 3: Daytime, Wednesday
Scene 4: Wednesday, Later
Scene 5: Evening, Thursday

Act II

Scene 1: Daytime, Friday
Scene 2: Daytime, Monday
Scene 3: Evening, Tuesday
Scene 4: Daytime, Wednesday
Scene 5: Daytime, Thursday

There will be an interval of about 20 minutes between acts, when refreshments will be served and the raffle drawn.

Cast (*in order of appearance*) :

Harry	Gary Field
Agatha	Carolyn Taylor
Alice	Joan Lee
Olivia/Oliver	Jake Hobbs
Eleanor	Debbie Lock
Inspector Twigg	Helen Harding
Maisie	Jeni Summerfield
Toby	Adrian Wells
PC Locket	Richard Lock
Isabella	Verity Roberts
Mandy	Ellie Hickmore

Directed by **Helen Thrower**

Production Team

Producer	Jayne Hoyland
Stage Crew	Alan Merrick, Peter Webster
Set Design	Jo Webster
Props Coordinator	Ceri Baker
Lighting	Ian Chandler, Gary Bates, Henry Marlow
Sound	Steve Greening
Prompt	Amanda Linstead
Wardrobe	Jeni Summerfield, Joan Lee, Lynda Bates
Catering Coordinator	Katie Dyet
Publicity	Jayne Hoyland, Anna Marlow, Adrian Wells, Ian Lee
Programme	Dave Headey
Front of House Coordinator	Jo Webster
Front of House staff	Lynda Bates, Sarah Couzens, Katie Dyet, Amanda Harvey, Ian Lee, Amanda Linstead, Denise Monk, Mary Mountford-Lister, Shela Rowan, Carole Tappenden, Sarah Varnom

In Rehearsal



Thanks to **Anna Marlow** for photos

Cast Profiles

Carolyn Taylor (Agatha)

Carolyn has directed and appeared in many productions for FDS and other companies, including a number of open air Shakespeare productions, most recently **Macbeth** and **Midsummer Night's Dream** at Oxford Castle this year. Other highlights include playing Aunt Ada Doom in **Cold Comfort Farm** (where she "saw something narsty in the woodshed!"). To her list of many talents she can add that of playwright, being the author of **Beauty and the Beast** in 2009 and **Reflections 1914-18** in 2014.



Helen Harding (Inspector Twigg)

Helen is a founder member of Shrivenham Amateur Dramatics, having appeared in many of their plays and pantos since 2002. In recent years she has also performed in two musicals, **The Witches of Eastwick** and **Titanic the Musical** (with Theatre Ink in Wroughton) and **Improbable Fiction** and **High Society** with AmEgos in Wantage. This is her first production with FDS, who have made her "very welcome".

Jake Hobbs (Oliver / Olivia)

Jake is another newcomer to FDS and he writes: "I work as an account manager in Fine Foods. My last acting role was back in 1988, in a school production at Highgate School. It was suggested by someone close to me that I go along to the read-through for this play; five days later I was cast for not one but two parts (thanks Gemma!). I have had great fun rehearsing for both roles and think the production will be very entertaining for the audience and cast alike."



Debbie Lock (Eleanor)

Debbie has been with FDS for over twenty years – she has appeared in a variety of productions and has directed several plays and pantomimes, most recently **Side Effects** at Buscot Park this year. On stage she has recently played Puck in **A Midsummer Night's Dream**, the front end of Magnesia the horse in **Jack and the Beanstalk**, and one of the Three Fops in **The Scarlet Pumpernickel**. Earlier this year you may have spotted her image in **Happily Ever After's** Magic Mirror.

Adrian Wells (Toby)

Adrian has been a part of FDS for over 20 years since debuting as a lovestruck Mr Smee in 1995 attempting to seduce the fairy Tinkerbell. He has been in award-winning productions including **The Crucible** (as John Proctor) and **Idle Chatter** (as Albert) and has enjoyed a variety of roles in plays by Shakespeare, Chekhov and Wilde, as well as various nefarious characters in pantomimes. Recently he has worked with AmEgos Theatre Company and his last performance with FDS was as Norman in **Living Together**.



Joan Lee (Alice)

Joan joined the Dramatic Society in 1987, and after making the mistake of admitting that she could sew, has been on the wardrobe team ever since. A panto star, she is more often seen in animal roles, being in her time a lion, two halves of a horse, a fish and a toad. Her last stage appearances were as Dolly Dainty the dame in **Jack and the Beanstalk**, Mrs Starveling in **A Midsummer Night's Dream** and Clairee in **Steel Magnolias** (2014).

Gary Field (Harry)

Gary joined FDS in February 2005 and although he first worked backstage it wasn't long before he took his first role as the cynical manservant Yasha in **The Cherry Orchard**. He has appeared in **Cold Comfort Farm**, **Outside Edge**, **Candleford**, **Our Town**, **A Midsummer Night's Dream** and **Living Together**, and taken several roles in panto. Gary also directed **I Thought I heard a Rustling** (2009) and **Wife After Death** (2013), and is the current chairman of FDS.



Jeni Summerfield (Maisie)

Jeni has been with FDS for 25 years this year and she has appeared in many other productions including **The Crucible**, **Dancing at Lughnasa**, and numerous pantos. This year – in **Happily Ever After!** - she completed the set of Queen, Fairy and Witch, not to mention a nasty stepmother – Hysteria in **Cinderella** (2013). Jeni has also directed some one act plays but most of the time is to be found feverishly designing and sewing costumes.



Ellie Hickman (Mandy)

Ellie's first principal role was Long John Silver in St John's School Carterton's **Treasure Island**. A talented dancer who has performed in a number of shows locally, we have recently seen Ellie in **Happily Ever After**, **The Snow Queen** (both times as Cinderella!), **Jack and the Beanstalk**, **The Scarlet Pumpernickel** and as one of Titania's fairies in **A Midsummer Night's Dream**. Ellie hopes eventually to dance professionally.

Verity Roberts (Isabella)

Verity has taken leading roles in **The Importance of Being Earnest**, **Cold Comfort Farm**, and **The Odd Couple**, and was Hermia in 2013's **A Midsummer Night's Dream**. She has had significant parts in no fewer than six of our last eight pantos, most recently in **The Snow Queen** last year as one of the comedy duo Jackie and Jill. Verity was co-author (with Helen Thrower) of this year's panto **Happily Ever After**. Now with two small children, we are very pleased to welcome Verity to the stage whenever she can spare the time!



Richard Lock (PC Locket)

Richard has been involved with FDS for many years and is most often found playing in our panto band, or working backstage, although his misspent youth included many stage appearances in pantomimes and musicals. He once made only occasional forays onto the stage, but we saw him last as grumpy Frank in **Side Effects** earlier this year. He has also taken the roles of Kevin in **Wife After Death** (2013) and Henry in **Present Laughter** (2012).

Helen Thrower (Director)

Helen joined FDS for **Jack and the Beanstalk** in 2013, and she then took roles in **A Midsummer Night's Dream**, **Steel Magnolias**, **Reflections** and **Living Together**. She has plenty of experience in drama, both at the Pegasus Theatre in Oxford and in schools where she has taught. At the Unicorn in Abingdon she has directed **Robin Hood**, **Oliver Twist** and **Cats**, and with FDS **The Scarlet Pumpernickel** and **Happily Ever After** (which she co-wrote with Verity). You may remember Helen as Dame Nelly in **The Snow Queen** last year.



Faringdon Dramatic Society

Faringdon Dramatic Society was formed over sixty years ago in 1948.

Since then it has mounted around 150 productions, ranging from pantomime to dramas, comedies and Shakespeare. Recently we have carried off a number of awards including the NODA Flame Award for Heroes in 2010: 'for inspirational contribution to the pursuit of excellence in Theatre'.

Our current membership is 60, but new members are always welcome, and there are opportunities for backstage and front of house personnel as well as actors.

For up to date details of the Society or membership please visit our website:

www.faringdondramatic.org.uk

Our next production will be our 2017 pantomime. **Arthur's Adventures** by Peter Webster will be staged on:

Saturday 28th January (afternoon and evening)

Sunday 29th January (afternoon)

Friday 3rd February (evening)

Saturday 4th February (afternoon and evening)

For more details please see the local press nearer the time.

Acknowledgements

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