

Faringdon Dramatic Society

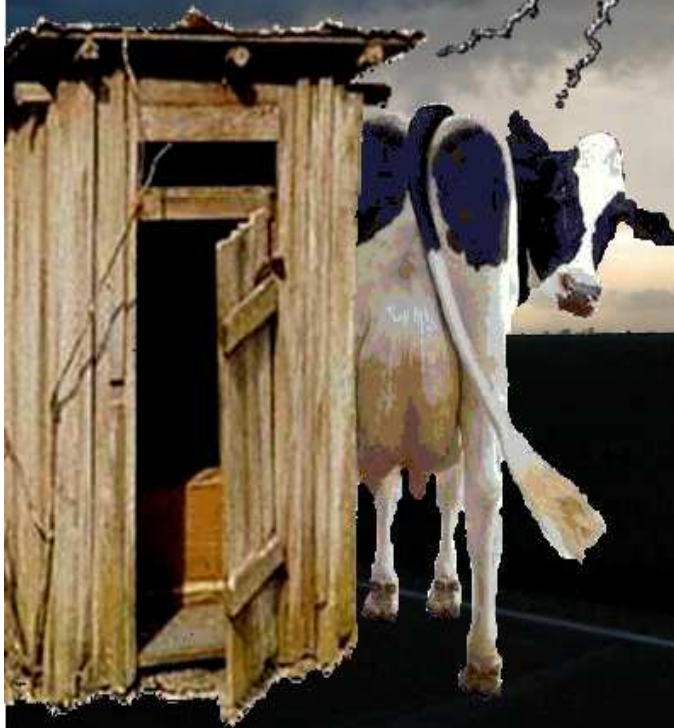
presents

Affiliated to NODA

Cold  
Comfort  
Farm by Paul Doust

Faringdon  
Junior  
School

June  
24-26  
2010



# Cold Comfort Farm

by *Paul Doust*

This adaptation by Paul Doust of Stella Gibbons' well-known tongue-in-cheek classic rural novel allows us to meet a wealth of comic characters. Set in rural Sussex in the 1930's we follow the exploits of our heroine the orphan Flora Poste as she meets and alters the lives of her eccentric Starkadder cousins.

Insane Grandmother Ada Doom, who 'saw something narsty in the woodshed', attempts to keep all her family around her as one by one they fall under Flora's spell.

Will we find out what Aunt Ada saw in the woodshed? Will we discover what was the 'great wrong' done to Flora Poste's father, and just what is the Sukebind?

FDS first performed Cold Comfort Farm in 1994 and four of the original cast are in this production too.

This has been a tremendous team effort, and has brought together actors from Lechlade, Uffington and Oxford to join our own group.

Watch and enjoy!

**Jo Webster**

The action takes place on Cold Comfort Farm and Hautcouture Hall, Howling, Sussex, in the 1930s.

There will be an interval of twenty minutes between Acts 1 and 2 during which refreshments are available and the raffle will be drawn.

## Cast:

Flora Poste	Verity Roberts
Ada Doom	Carolyn Taylor
Judith	Lois Wells
Amos	Vern Dunkley
Reuben / Charles	Jeff Barry
Seth	Marcus Pitcaithly
Urk / Sneller	Gary Field
Elfine	Jenny Whiffen
Mr Neck	Peter Webster
Adam Lambsbreath	Dave Headey
Rennet	Harriet Warner
Mrs Hawk-Monitor	Janie Eyre-Brook
Richard Hawk-Monitor	Austen Roberts
Dandelion / Waitress	Hazel Wells
Luke	Seb Allum
Phoebe	Charlotte Allum
Chorus / Starkadders / Quivering Brethren	Lilly Dunkley
	Claire Hawkins
	Joan Lee
	Debbie Lock
	Fiona Merrick
	Sarah Varnom
	Karen Whiffen
Guests	Richard Lock
	Carole Tappenden
	Alan Taylor
	John Taylor

Directed by Jo Webster  
Assistant Director: Carole Tappenden

# Behind the Scenes..

Producer	<b>Gary Field</b>
Set Design	<b>Jo Webster</b>
Set Creation	<b>Peter Webster, Jeff Barry, Alan Merrick, Richard Lock, Nick Evans, Jo Webster, Carole Tappenden</b>
Wardrobe	<b>Jeni Summerfield, Joan Lee</b>
Props	<b>Mary Mountford-Lister, Sarah Couzens</b>
Lighting	<b>Paul Mountford-Lister</b>
Sound	<b>Scott Gildert</b>
Poster	<b>Adrian Wells</b>
Programme	<b>Dave Headey</b>
Front of House Team	<b>John Taylor, Denise Monk, Ann Taylor, Shela Rowan, Lynda Bates, Amanda Linstead, Sandra Keen, Jill Headey</b>
Stage Manager	<b>Tim Gerry</b>
Stage Crew	<b>Alan Merrick, Luke Gerry, Nick Evans</b>

## Acknowledgements

FDS would like to thank:

- **Faringdon United Church** and **Faringdon Junior School** for rehearsal facilities,
- **The Nut Tree** for box office facilities,
- **I C Lighting**,
- **Caldecourt Carpets** and **Jonathan Keen** for invaluable transport assistance,
- **Margaret Scrivens** for loan of the tricycle.

# Principal characters

## Verity Roberts (Flora)

Verity's first appearance for FDS was as Cecily in **The Importance of Being Earnest**, and she has taken leading roles in two of the last three pantos (**Peter Panto** in 2008 and **Aladdin** this year). We would have liked to have seen her more often on stage but she and husband Austen (who also appears in **Cold Comfort Farm** as Richard Hawk-Monitor) have been rather busy starting a family!



## Marcus Pitcaithly (Seth)

A newcomer to FDS, Marcus has appeared in several Oxford productions, most recently in the Oxford Theatre Guild's **Henry V** last year in which he took two parts. With Buskins of Worcester College he has also appeared in **Dracula** (as Renfield), **Midsummer Night's Dream** and **Alice in Wonderland**.

## Carolyn Taylor (Aunt Ada)

Carolyn has appeared in and directed many productions; recent highlights include directing **Outside Edge** which FDS took to Canada in 2008. In 1994 she took the part of Judith in our first production of **Cold Comfort Farm**. To her list of many talents she can now add that of playwright, being the author of **Beauty and the Beast**, last year's FDS panto.



## Jeff Barry (Reuben/Charles)

Jeff's first role with FDS was Gerry in **Dancing at Lughnasa** and he has also been seen as impoverished landowner Pishchik in **The Cherry Orchard**. In 2006 many people will recall his fall down two flights of stairs as Garry Lejeune in **Noises Off**. Jeff made his directorial debut the next year with **The Importance of being Earnest**.

## Lois Wells (Judith)

A welcome return to the stage for Lois after many years' absence. She has taken a number of pantomime character roles such as Mole in **Wind in the Willows**, Mystic Maggie (with echoes of another Maggie) in **The Pied Piper**, and most recently Velda Vixen in **Snow White**. Lois has also been seen in plays such as **Lark Rise** and **Daisy Pulls it Off**.



## Vern Dunkley (Amos)

An experienced actor and director with Uffington Players, Vern is a newcomer to FDS along with his wife Lilly (who appears in the Chorus) and is a natural for the part of Amos: "I love getting my teeth into a juicy 'nasty' character" he says. Vern's CV includes numerous pantos, Old Time Music Hall, and the scripting and production of two Murder Mystery evenings.

## Jenny Whiffen (Elfine)

This is Jenny's second speaking role with FDS: her first was as Rebecca in **Our Town** last November. However she has appeared in the chorus of every Faringdon panto for the last few years. Dancing is her first love and her talents were seen at their best when she appeared as the solo dancer in **Beauty and the Beast** in 2009.





### Gary Field (Urk / Sneller)

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 was most recently seen as the matrimonially troubled Bob in **Outside Edge**, as one of the blacksmiths in **Candleford**, and of course Bo Peep in the 2009 panto **Beauty and the Beast** – so he is no stranger to wigs.

### Harriet Warner (Rennet)

Harriet is a full-time piano teacher who studied at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama, and was in the orchestra for **Peter Panto**. She has acted in many plays, including the **Farndale Macbeth**, **Agamemnon**, **My Fair Lady** and **Grease**, and with FDS we have seen her as Sharon in **Outside Edge** and Emily in **Our Town**.

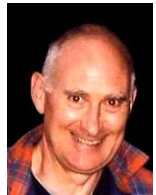


### Dave Headey (Adam)

One of the FDS veterans, Dave has directed several productions (most recently **Noises Off** in 2006) and appeared in many more including **The Cherry Orchard**, **Outside Edge** and **Our Town**. He last played Adam in FDS's first production of **Cold Comfort Farm** in 1994, but this time hasn't needed so much make up. Dave has also appeared with the ActIV Theatre Company at the Edinburgh Fringe.

### Peter Webster (Neck)

Although he is seen on stage from time to time, Peter is more likely to be found with a paintbrush or screwdriver behind the scenes. Or with a pen - he is the author of six pantomimes, all of which have been produced by FDS. His last appearances were as the psychopath Jonathan Brewster in **Arsenic and Old Lace** and as Gaev in **The Cherry Orchard**.



## New Members

Faringdon Dramatic Society was formed sixty years ago in 1948. Since then it has mounted over 130 productions, from pantomime to dramas, comedies and Shakespeare. Recently we have carried off a number of awards including the Ron Kench Shield for Drama for **Dancing at Lughnasa** in 2004.

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](http://www.faringdondramatic.org.uk)

Or email us at [webmaster@faringdondramatic.org.uk](mailto:webmaster@faringdondramatic.org.uk)