

Faringdon Advertiser April 5th 1963

Faringdon Dramatic Society's twice postponed production of 'When We Are Married' opened on Wednesday evening with little to hinder its eventual success. J. B. Priestley's famous Yorkshire comedy proved ideal material for the company. Even by an audience well used to northern accents through television series, the Yorkshire dialect of most of the cast could not be faulted. After a slightly anxious start with one or two missed lines the cast got really 'with it' in the final act and brought the play to a hilarious conclusion. The action of the play takes place at Alderman Helliwell's house in Cleckley, a town in the West Riding, in 1908, and presents the problems of three couples celebrating their silver wedding anniversaries, who suddenly have cause to doubt whether they are really legally married.

Playing Alderman Helliwell is Bill Reeves, who took part in the Society's previous production of the play twelve years ago. George Young, who also had a part in the previous production, appears this time as the tipsy 'Yorkshire Argus', photographer, Henry Ormonroyde. One of the four players appearing in their first production with the company was 16 year old Susan Hill. She gave a first class performance as the maid, making no mistakes and playing her part, quite a demanding one, with ease. Keeping an eye on Susan is her mother, Kathleen Hill, as the wife of one of the three eminent citizens. Margaret Carter came into the play at the last moment because of the illness of Kathleen Daish, who was to have played the gossiping 'char'. She had only two days in which to learn her part, but appeared to have no difficulty in fitting into the action of the play. Those taking part in the play are:- Susan Hill – Ruby Birtle; Donald McIntosh – Gerald Forbes; Margaret Carter – Mrs Northrop; Christine Ridge – Nancy Holmes; Sam Heath – Fred Dyson; George Young – Henry Ormonroyd; Bill Reeves – Ald. Joseph Helliwell; Nancy Reeves – Maria Helliwell; Ted Dyson – Councillor Albert Parker; John Lott – Herbert Soppit; Kathleen Hill – Clara Soppit; Eileen Heath – Annie Parker; Eileen Drew – Lottie Grady; Cyril Rudge – Rev. Clement Mercer. The play is produced by Nancy Reeves and Bill Carter. The stage managers designed the set, which was constructed by the stage staff.