

Faringdon Dramatic Society

(affiliated to NODA)

presents

Kenneth Grahame's

Wind
in the
Willows



by Alan Bennett
with additional lyrics by Jeremy Sams

at Faringdon Community College

January 31st
February 1st, 7th and 8th 2003

The Wind in the Willows

by Alan Bennett

Act 1

- Scene 1 - Summer - The River Bank
- Scene 2 - Ratty's house
- Scene 3 - Autumn - The road to Toad Hall
- Scene 4 - Winter - The River Bank
- Scene 5 - Badger's House
- Scene 6 - Outside Toad Hall
- Scene 7 - The Magistrate's Court
- Scene 8 - The River Bank
- Scene 9 - Mole End

Act 2

- Scene 1 - The Gaol
- Scene 2 - The Railway
- Scene 3 - The Canal
- Scene 4 - The Gypsy Camp
- Scene 5 - Spring - The River Bank
- Scene 6 - Badger's House
- Scene 7 - Toad Hall
- Scene 8 - The River Bank
- Scene 9 - Toad Hall

Act 1 is approximately one and a half hours long and Act 2 approximately one hour. There will be an interval of twenty minutes between acts when refreshments will be served and the raffle drawn.

Cast:

Toad
Mole
Rat
Badger
Albert
Chief Weasel
Weasel Norman
Magistrate/Gypsy
Washerwoman
Bargewoman
Train Driver
Fox
Otter/Rupert
Portly
Monica
Gaolers daughter
Magistrates Clerk

Joan Lee
Lois Wells
Cleve Forty
John Taylor
Jo Webster
Gary Thompson
Karen Whiffen
Katie Dyet
Roger Leitch
Claire Forty
Dave Headey
Alex Oliver
Nick Coard
George Morton
Kathryn Whiffen
Grace Anderson
Carole Tappenden

Directors:

Debbie Lock
Carolyn Taylor

Producer:

Claire Forty

Musical Director:

Karen Price

Choreography:

Amanda Linstead
Rebecca Lock

Orchestra:

Piano	Karen Price
Flute	Zoe Barker
	Alison Jerome
	Charlotte Sayers
Saxophone	Zoe Barker
Oboe	Hannah Logan
Clarinet	Elli Morton
	Debra Warner
Drums	Luke Gerry
Electric Guitar	Richard Lock
Bass Guitar	James Green
Pageturner	Phillippa Hunt



Riverbankers - Squirrels:

Sophie Ball
Elizabeth Hunt
Martha Kiff
Hannah Lardner
Amelia Naylor
Sophie Russell
Ella Thomas
Gail Vallis
Jess Waymark
Michaela Williams
Rosie Woods

Riverbankers - Hedgehogs:

Dominie Callanan
Callun Coard
Elliott Coard
Holly Corke
Amy Gibbons
Harry Naylor
Jamie Rogers
George Townsend
Amie Williams
Elisha Williams
Becca Wisbey



Wild Wooders:

Sammy Allen
Lauren Anderson
Matt Cockcroft
Hayley Drawbridge
Amy Gerry
Kendra Grey
Charlotte Lock
Rebecca Lock
Grace Logan
Rosie Oliver
Kayleigh Pill
Lily Smith
Clare Sollis
Tara Whenray
Kathryn Whiffen
Rebecca Whiffen
Fiona Whittle



Riverbankers - Fieldmice:

Lauren Bates
Jim Duffen
Rosie Fowler
Pippa Garrard
Alice Moger
Josh Osment
Laura Prescott
Miriam Wells

Riverbankers - Rabbits:

Lucy Broom
James Campbell
Emma Garrard
Lucy Hodgson
Charlotte Hopkins
Millie Kiff
Madeleine Oliver
Beth Osment
Sammy Smith
Jamie Townsend
Hannah Waymark
Tamara Williams
Alice Willson

Behind the Scenes

Lighting	Ian Chandler
Sound	Gary Bates, Tim Gerry
Set Design	Kate Lord
Set Construction	Gary Bates, Nick Coard, Tim Evans, Cleve Forty, Kate Lord, Andrew Logan, Carole Tappenden, Sarah Varnom, Jo Webster, Peter Webster
Set artwork	Rebecca Fulton
Prompt	Alan Taylor
Props	Sarah Varnom
Wardrobe	Sharon Gerry, Joan Lee, Jeni Summerfield
Stage Manager	Simon Wisbey
Backstage	Nick Coard, Andrew Logan, Kate Lord, Carole Tappenden, Peter Webster
Make up co-ordinator	Mary Mountford Lister
Poster design	Richy Edgington
Programme	Dave Headey
Publicity	Gary Bates, Cleve Forty
Front of house co-ordinator	Denise Monk
Front of house	Lynda Bates, Mike Durham, Joyce Harrison, Jill Headey, Jim Tappenden, Ann Taylor, Lynda Wisbey

Our thanks to **White Horse Country Wear** for Box Office facilities, to **Faringdon United Church** for our rehearsal venue, and to **Perry, Bishop & Chambers** for photocopying facilities.

Many thanks to all the parents who have helped with costumes, make up and chaperone duties.

Our next production is **Much Ado About Nothing** by William Shakespeare, on June 18, 19 and 20 at Sudbury House. We hope to see you there on a balmy summer evening!

Visit us on the web at www.faringdondramatic.org.uk

For the actors, one of the delights of Alan Bennett's script is reading the stage directions. Members of the audience miss them of course, so here is a selection of them for you to read later:

It is a spring morning on the River Bank and the locals are going about their (not very pressing) business. All the River Bank animals seem to patronize the same outfitter, who has kitted them out in a special brand of tweeds that manages to accommodate both tails and ears.



While Toad is dressed like a country gentleman in a loud suit of plus-fours, his green hair and large round glasses stamp him as a toad.

Attracted less by the singing than the sausages, the weasels come and stand just outside the circle, but what with music having charms to soothe the savage breast, etc. these arboreal ne'er-do-wells are soon singing along with everyone else – and even the Chief Weasel has to brush away a tear.

Toad returns to the caravan but thoughtful as ever flings out a couple of blankets for Rat and Mole. The weasels evaporate into the darkness, managing in the process to snaffle from under the nose of its mother a particularly succulent baby rabbit.

Disaster seems unavoidable but when the collision occurs both car and caravan are off-stage so the audience is spared the frightful sight of horse-drawn meeting horse-powered, and horse-drawn ending up in the ditch.

An elegant Fox waylays the unsuspecting Mole. The Fox, possibly on the if-you-can't-beat-em join-'em principle, is dressed in hunting pink. This happens to be the Wild Wood but it could be any provincial bus station on a Saturday night.



Badger is all dressing-gown. His hair, once black, now has a broad streak of grey, and though there is a tail somewhere we don't see it.

Next morning finds Badger serving some very adhesive porridge to two small hedgehogs. Rat, who has had a less-than-comfortable night, edges painfully off his dining chair. Mole has slept much better of course, and not only because he has been in the comfortable chair.

Some time has passed, long enough anyway for there to have been a jumble sale because some hedgehogs trundle on, unsuitably dressed in the choicer items of Toad's motoring gear. Mole and Badger come in together and the fact that they are together is enough to make Ratty – well, ratty.

Toad sets off down the road. He can walk but he is so rich he normally doesn't need to, so while it would not be true to say he is hitch-hiking he is certainly on the lookout for any likely-looking motor vehicle.

Purists and driving instructors will have noted that he has omitted to check his driving mirror.. but after all this is the first motor car he has driven for several months so it is an exciting moment.

The Chief Weasel gives Toad a rabbit punch. I think this is all right, c.f. the cat dogged his every footstep. As he is hauled past Badger this gentleman solemnly raises his hat – a literary reference which is likely to pass unnoticed. When Oscar Wilde was led away after being sentenced his friend Robert Ross was seen to raise his hat.

These days an offender of Toad's social position and financial resources could expect to be sent directly to an open prison, but Toad's prison is anything but open. Were there a psychiatrist attached to this gaol he would diagnose Toad as "subject to violent mood swings"

I know it's no business of mine but prisoners in plays and operas so often escape by getting round gaoler's daughters that you'd think that for gaolers daughterlessness would have become part of the job specification.

"Shirts are to me sir, what daffodils is to Wordsworth" (and deprivation was to Philip Larkin)

Toad hangs the washboard on the line rather than the washing, a departure from established laundry practice that convinces the Bargewoman of something she has suspected for some time.

The two friends shake hands, differences settled. Were there time for a snatch of "The Dam Busters" it would not be inappropriate.

Someone who has had crazes for houseboats and caravans and motors is quite likely to have a craze for girls. And just as Toad wanted to initiate Rat into the charms of caravanning so he wants to introduce him to the delights of kissing. The gaoler's daughter kisses Mole and perhaps his kiss is longer and more lingering. Life, one may imagine, is never going to be quite the same again, at least for Rat and Mole.