

# THE HAPPIEST DAYS OF YOUR LIFE

A COMEDY  
BY JOHN DIGHTON



**May 15th – 18th, 2019**  
The Dunn Village Hall,  
Rushlake Green

## PROGRAMME

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## The Happiest Days of Your Life – Director’s notes

*The Happiest Days of Your Life* by John Dighton was first performed at the Apollo Theatre in London in 1948 and later made into a very successful comedy film directed by Frank Launder in 1950. This delightful farce is set after World War II in a boys' school when they receive the news that they are to billet another school, which turns out to be all female! Events are complicated by the arrival of the parents. Each headmaster/mistress tries to conceal the fact that his/her school is now co-ed and chaos ensues.

From a Director's viewpoint, this play did present a few challenges – not least a cast of eleven actors (including two young pupils!) amidst quite a bit of furniture, dashing in and out of various doors from our small stage with lots of props and costumes authentic to the period. However we've all had great fun and, as always, the whole team – cast and crew, who make up The Village Players – have worked incredibly hard to produce what I hope will be a very enjoyable and entertaining evening for you.

## About the Director, Heather Young

Heather is a founding member of The Village Players having appeared as Carrabosse, the Wicked Witch, in *The Sleeping Beauty* – the very first pantomime the group put on in February 1992. Since then, she has been involved in practically every production whether as an actress, in the chorus or as director.

This is Heather's sixth play that she has directed for The Village Players – previous productions were: *Seasons Greetings*, by Alan Ayckbourn, *Not Now Darling* by John Chapman & Ray Cooney, *See How They Run* by Philip King, *Make Way for Lucia* by John Van Druten and *Fatal Encounter* by Francis Durbridge.

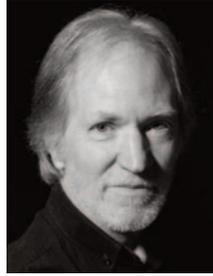


Heather Young

## The cast



James Donohue



Jim Edmonds



David Hayes



Clyde Young



Ann Walker



Kate Rolff



Jonathan Gray



Lizzie Hutcheson



Pam Edmonds



Stephen Cottrell



Jane Uren



Ian Charlesworth



Elizabeth Williams

## Cast (in order of appearance)

Dick Tassell, Assistant Master at Hilary Hall	James Donohue
Rainbow, School Porter and Groundsman	Jim Edmonds
Rupert Billings, Senior Assistant Master at Hilary Hall	David Hayes
Godfrey Pond, Headmaster of Hilary Hall	Clyde Young
Miss Evelyn Whitchurch, Principal of St Swithins School	Ann Walker
Miss Gossage, Senior Assistant Mistress at St Swithins	Kate Rolff
Hopcraft Mi, Pupil at Hilary Hall	Jonathan Gray
Barbara Cahoun, Pupil at St Swithins	Lizzie Hutcheson
Joyce Harper, Assistant Mistress at St Swithins	Pam Edmonds
The Reverend Edward Peck	Stephen Cottrell
Mrs Peck, his wife	Jane Uren
Edgar Sowter	Ian Charlesworth
Mrs Sowter, his wife	Elizabeth Williams

## The production team

Director	Heather Young
Producer	Anita Gunn
Stage Manager	Clive Uren
Props	Jane Leney
Sound	Jonathan Austin
Lighting	Andrew Nairne
Set Design	John Gunn
Set Construction	John Gunn, Graham Stoner, Johnny Bates, Ian Charlesworth & Team
Prompt	Chris Cogdell & Inyca Humphreys
Wardrobe	Sue Wilson
Front of House	Anita Gunn & Team
Bar	Peter Williams & Team
Raffle	Nannette Burton
Publicity	Peter Williams
Catering	Mary Dick-Cleland

## Running order

### Setting

The action of the play takes place in the Masters Common Room at Hilary School for Boys, in Hampshire.

**Act 1:** The first day of the Summer Term. Afternoon.

**Act 2:** Saturday afternoon. Three weeks later.

**Act 2:** Two Hours later.

## In rehearsals





## The Angie Trew award

Members, acknowledge your favourite actor by voting for the annual Angie Trew Award.

Each year at the AGM in October, the Angie Trew Award for “The Most Deserving Actor” is presented to the person who has given an outstanding performance in the preceding 12 months. It doesn’t have to be a leading role, but something that has most impressed, amused or entertained you. So while watching this production please make a note of anyone you would like to nominate when the time comes to vote. We will remind you in the newsletter.

Last year’s winners were Kate Rolff as “The Most Deserving Actor” for her performances in both *A Woman of No Importance* and *Calamity Jane* and Johnny Bates as “The Most Valuable Input” for his extensive support to the group over many years in both acting roles and backstage. As an exception, we also decided to make a third award entitled “The Most Promising Newcomer” and this was presented to Zak Nicholls for his performance in *A Woman of No Importance*.

## Forthcoming events

The next Café Theatre production by The Village Players will be *Comfort & Joy* a hugely funny play written by playwright and entertainer, Mike Harding. It is set in Lancashire over the Christmas period. Relatives you hardly ever see and who are very different from you, arrive at your house for the festivities. No-one receives a present that is at all appropriate. Culinary disasters abound. Long-buried resentments rear their ugly heads as the alcohol flows and tongues are loosened!

This will be performed here at the Dunn Village Hall from 13th to 16th November so make a note of the dates in your diary. However, please be aware that this play includes adult language so is probably best suited for those aged 18 or over.

## Our thanks

The Village Players wish to thank everyone who has generously assisted with this production with special thanks to:

**The County Group** for their sponsorship and help in the preparation of the programme and other publicity materials.

**Gareth Looker** of Looker Marketing Communications for the design and artwork of our programmes, flyers and posters.

**Mark Bostock** for taking the cast photographs.

**Mary Dick-Cleland** for arranging and preparing the catering for each evening.



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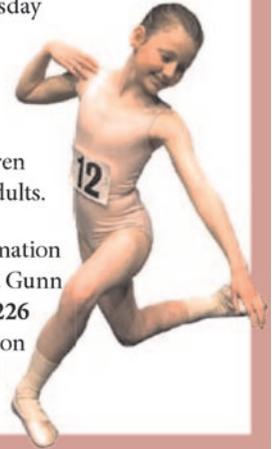
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## The Village Players

The group owes its existence to Angie Trew for it was thanks to her vision that the first pantomime was produced at The Dunn Village Hall in 1992. Having "recruited" Anita Gunn and Jimi Jervis Read to the team, the enthusiasm and creative skills of these three ladies ensured that the pantomime was a great success and this led to the formation of The Village Pantomime Players later that year.

Under the leadership of Angie, and then Anita, the group went on to produce a variety of plays, comedies (in a Café Theatre style) and musicals. In 2003 the name was changed to The Village Players to reflect the group's commitment to providing the village with a wide variety of entertainment. Sadly, Angie lost her courageous battle against cancer in September 2009 but her legacy lives on.

### Join us:

Onstage or backstage, plays, pantomimes, musicals, theatre suppers.

### Contact:

Anita Gunn 01435 873226 or  
Clyde Young 01435 830059

Or visit our website at:

[villageplayersrushlakegreen.co.uk](http://villageplayersrushlakegreen.co.uk)

Meet new people, have great fun and help provide that 'certain something' for our local community.

## Follow us



You can now follow The Village Players Rushlake Green on Facebook. Like our page and keep up-to-date with all our news, audition dates, ticket sales and sneaky looks behind the scenes at rehearsal and back-stage.

## Past productions

February 1992  
May 1992  
December 1992  
May 1993  
February 1994  
November 1994  
June 1995  
January 1996  
February 1997  
November 1997  
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February 2016  
August 2016  
November 2016  
June 2017  
November 2017  
May 2018  
November 2018

The Sleeping Beauty  
Ways and Means  
Fishy Business / Hidden Meanings  
The Boyfriend  
Cinderella  
The Patient & Rats  
Variety Show  
Boeing Boeing  
Beauty and the Beast  
Relatively Speaking  
Holiday Snap  
Mother Goose  
Seasons Greetings  
Fiddler on the Roof  
Out of Order  
Jack and the Beanstalk  
Home is Where Your Clothes Are  
Theatre in the Round  
South Pacific  
Blithe Spirit  
Dick Whittington and his Cat  
Don't Dress For Dinner  
When We Are Married  
A 15th Anniversary Review  
The Ghost Train  
My Fair Lady  
Not Now Darling  
Hay Fever  
It Runs in the Family  
A Celebration of Christmas  
(in aid of The Eve Appeal in  
memory of Angie Trew)  
A Midsummer Night's Dream  
(Shakespeare-on-the Green)  
Deadly Nightcap  
Oklahoma!  
See How They Run  
An Enchanted Journey  
(Poetry and Music Evening)  
Lord Arthur Savile's Crime  
20th Anniversary Review  
The Merry Wives of Windsor  
(Shakespeare-on-the-Green)  
Make Way for Lucia  
Carousel  
There Goes The Bride  
Fatal Encounter  
Victorian Christmas Evening  
Cinderella  
Radio Play  
Glorious!  
Sand Castles  
A Woman of No Importance  
Calamity Jane  
Relative Values