

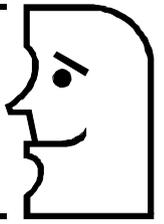


The Guild Players

www.guildplayers.org.uk

part of Finchley Methodist Church

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Newsletter - June 2009

'Hay Fever' (14th - 16th May 2009)

We sold 298 tickets for our Spring production - well above the recent average - and have had some very pleasant comments from people who came to see it. Despite the difficulty of losing Ian to a serious accident just the week before production, things went better than expected, with Gerry taking up the baton with enthusiasm.

Everyone in the Hay Fever Company wishes Ian well very soon. Thanks go to those who filled in the spaces left when Gerry was conscripted into the cast - you could hardly see the joins. Altogether a good production with both 'old' and 'new' faces included.

Details of the financial result will be published as soon as they come to hand, suffice to say that door taking exceeded £2300 plus whatever was profit on the front of house. The foyer collection in lieu of paying for programmes amounted to just over £100 for the Friends of Finchley Memorial Hospital .

The set still has to be dismantled. Company members will be emailed when we plan to do this.

'Caiaphas' (7th - 10th April 2009)

We returned to the same 5 venues as last year for our annual Holy Week tour. In a change of tone to recent productions, 'Caiaphas' was a slightly longer and darker piece. All the performances were well received, with around 200 people in total turning out to see the seven strong cast in action.

What's Next?

It is going to be very difficult - not to say impossible - to do anything which looks like a production over the summer. This is because we have a great deal of practical work to do in order to get our new storage units in place. Members will hopefully have seen that the old leaky and unsafe storage spaces (the former air raid shelters at the back of the church) have finally been demolished.

Before we can get the new units ordered and installed we have some remedial work to do on the rear retaining wall. We also need to remove, lower and reinstate the pathways surrounding the site to avoid the storage units flooding. A schedule of work dates will be emailed to members in due course. Any offers of help with this work would be appreciated. Completion of this project will hopefully make organising future productions much simpler.

If things go well we might be able fit in a few evenings of play readings - things we have done in the past or might like to do in the future. We will also try to include an evening giving information and imparting 'know how' in respect of all those front and back stage jobs without which productions would not see the light of day.

Autumn Production (26th - 28th November 2009)

The projected performance dates for the Autumn production are in the last week of November 2009. We are not yet certain what arrangements can be made for the production which will be the subject of discussion at the next Guild Players Committee meeting, by when we hope Ian will be leaping about in good health.

Looking To The Future

As most group members will be aware, The Guild Players is an intrinsic part of Finchley Methodist Church by whose members it was founded over 60 years ago. Although we welcome people from outside the Church community, our constitution is securely bound up with the Church, key offices of the group being occupied by Church members.

Times change, and so does the make up of Church congregations and in recent years the number of Church members choosing to take up membership of the Guild Players has declined. If sufficient Church members cannot be attracted to support the Guild Players it could present us with a very serious situation as we rely on the generosity of the Church to be able to work in the way we do.

Discussions will be going on over the Summer with Church officials to see what, if any, changes are necessary to our work in order to make it more relevant to the present members of the congregation. Given an open mind this could present an exciting opportunity for both the Church and the Players. But more of this in due course.

Annual General Meeting (23rd September 2009)

Advance notice that our AGM occurs near the start of the Guild Players 2009/10 season. Further details will be distributed nearer the date.