



# Frant Pantomime and Dramatic Society Newsletter – June 2009

## Welcome

Welcome to the latest newsletter. The summer is upon us now and we're looking forward to our 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary 'do' but more about that further on. We've also got the NODA report for 'Murdered to Death' and you'll find this at the end of the newsletter.

## Murdered To Death by Peter Gordon

It is a truly nerve-wracking experience waiting for the audience to settle down, the lights to dim and the curtain to open on your 'baby'. This is something which I experienced for the first time this April as FPDS performed my directorial debut. A few people asked if I was feeling nervous and my reply was that I'd rather be up on the stage!



The play went extremely well and my thanks go out to the cast, backstage crew, set building team and everyone who helped on

Front of House, in short, everyone who was involved in the show.

## 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner

The arrangements are just being finalised for the dinner on 20 June. Our caterers are preparing to feed 58 FPDS members, past and present and we're putting the finishing touches to our after-dinner entertainment.



It will be lovely to get together and celebrate our ruby anniversary and share our memories of the society over the years.

## Barbecue

Clive and Linda Moores have, very kindly, agreed to allow us to descend on their garden for our annual barbecue again this year. It will be on Saturday 25 July starting at 12:30pm.

If you would like to come along, please bring a salad and a dessert to share amongst the group and whatever you wish to barbecue for yourselves. You will also need to bring something to drink.



You will also need to bring crockery and cutlery and additional serving implements would be greatly appreciated!

Despite forgetting to organise it last year, I promise that we will provide French bread and ketchup this year!!

## Music Hall

Here's some advanced warning – this year is Music Hall year again and our show will be on Wednesday 2 December to Saturday 5 December 2009. More details will follow but we will let you know when rehearsals will start.





# *Frant Pantomime and Dramatic Society*

## *Newsletter – June 2009*

**FRANT PANTOMIME &  
DRAMATIC SOCIETY**  
**MURDERED TO DEATH by**  
**Peter Gordon**  
**Frant Memorial Hall**  
**23 – 25 April 2009**  
**Director: Maggie Baxter**

This play is the first of three written by Peter Gordon having the character of Inspector Pratt. Set in a country manor house in the 1930's it has shades of Miss Marple & Hercule Poirot in the characters, with the investigation of mysterious deaths by someone similar appropriate furniture and pictures on the walls.

**Make Up:** All the cast looked natural under the stage lighting.

**Costume** supplied by The Costume Place were excellent and in keeping with the era. Miss Maple's outfit was eye-catching.

**Lighting** was well controlled.

**The Production:** The play moved along at a good pace and any prompts were unnoticeable. **Jackie Manktelow** (Mildred) looked the part and contrasted nicely with **Pippa Attwood** (Dorothy) as the drably dressed niece reliant on her aunt; **Clive Moores** (Bunting) was excellent as the disdainful butler; **Richard Pierce** (Colonel Charles Craddock) epitomised the retired army officer with the stiff upper lip; **Chloe Nightingale** (Margaret Craddock) gave us the perfect specimen of someone who thought they were the "cats whiskers";

to Inspector Clouseau. A very hilarious spoof.

**Front of House:** A warm welcome from the Front of House team.

**The Programme:** A5 12 page programme with details of the cast and production team, with short biographies and colour photo for each member of the cast. Correct NODA crest and wording used. No warning that shots will occur in this production – this I feel is always useful to mention.

**Set:** A good representation of the lounge of a country manor house in the 1930s, with good use of the apron, with

**Chloe Heaver** (Elizabeth Hartley-Trumington) made the changes from well spoken to common with ease; **Hugh Nightingale** (Pierre Marceau) managed a creditable accent in the style of Monsieur Poirot; **Ann Darby** (Joan Maple) was a delightful character; **Toby Champneys** (Constable Thompkins) made a perfect officer of the law; **Ray Hodges** (Inspector Pratt) was a delightful local policeman inept at carrying out a murder investigation. All the characters were realistic and gave the audience a good laughter tonic. Diction was clear and well projected. Congratulations to all involved in making this such an amusing production.

Thank you for inviting myself and my wife to see the production, which we thoroughly enjoyed.

**JOHN W BARNES**

**Regional Representative**  
**NODA South East District 3**