

Rustington Players

Winter 2024 Newsletter

Pride & Prejudice



What a run we had with Nadya's adaptation of the Austen classic. We had so many compliments from our audiences every night.

Keith Smithers of NODA has given their thoughts:

This iconic story originally written and set in the early 1800s was superbly brought to life by Nadya Henwood, who directed the action and adapted the plot for the stage. A very wordy script very clearly gave us the lives and thoughts of the Bennet family and their neighbours and friends. The scenery team made an excellent task of transforming the stage into a country house lounge, with the mouldings on the walls, candle holders and other appropriate furnishings in the locations it was portraying. Costumes, as clothing was in those times, were smart, neat, frilly and flowery as the occasion demanded.

In the Bennet family were Mrs Bennet (Vinny Shepherd), a mother who was determined to find her daughters as good a husband as she could, bearing in mind their particular standing in society, Mr Bennet (Nigel Peacock) the father and five daughters. Mrs Bennet provided us with some good-hearted humour throughout whilst Mr Bennet quietly went about his role as husband and provider for his family. All the family involved were well cast and enacted their parts with conviction. The four daughters in this adaptation were Elizabeth (Tash Mills), the one around whom the story is based, Jane (Beth Tolhurst) an older sister and Lydia and Kitty (Sophie Clark and Keziah Croucher), being two younger siblings. They all interacted naturally with one another. A friend of the family, Charlotte Lucas (Sara Spencer) was also involved with their discussions about marriage and their future.

The four gentlemen who are romantically involved with the Bennet sisters and Charlotte are Fitzwilliam Darcy (Aaron Ost), Charles Bingley (Sam New), William Collins (Zahir White) and the not so gentlemanly George Wickham (Rhys Bloy). These four all had very different characteristics and these were played to the full by the accredited actors.

Two more related and important people were Darcy's aunt, Lady Catherine de Bourgh (Eileen Coan) - a very forceful lady who knew her own mind and was quite immovable in her opinions - not a person to have to negotiate with. Caroline Bingley (Carrie Salisbury), Charles Bingley's sister was the other relative.

This is the first pre-1900s play that I have seen for a very long time and apart from the acting, staging, scenery and technical side which excelled, it made such a welcome change for once in a while not to hear of murders, mental health problems, distress, swearing and the problems of our modern society. I just sat back and enjoyed a couple of hours of thoroughly delightful theatre. Congratulations to all involved with the production.

Well done to all involved in creating a wonderful production.

Upcoming Socials

New Years Eve

You can probably guess the date! It's being kindly hosted by Jenny and Rob at their home. See the poster attached. We look forward to seeing you there!



A Message from Our Chairman

As 2024 draws to a close I would like to thank you for your support during this last year and your continuing support during the coming year. We have three exciting productions and several social events planned, the next being the New Year's Eve Party at my house. Remember partners and spouses are welcome!

I'd like to take this opportunity to wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Jenny

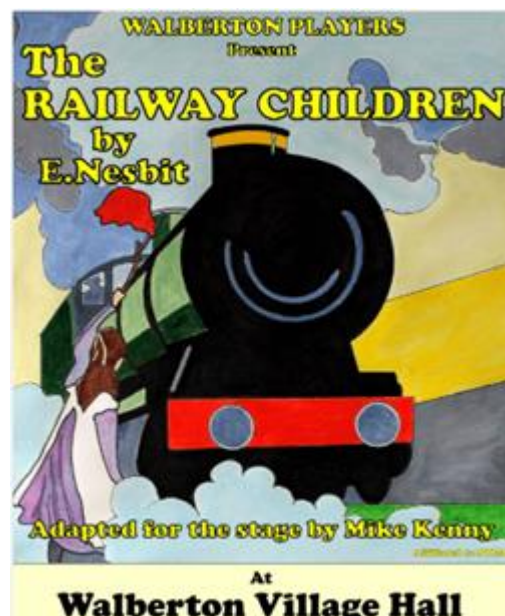
February Social

On Saturday 22nd Feb we are organising a group booking to support **Walberton Players** in their production of **The Railway Children**. This production has many of our own Rustington Players members in, so you may recognise a few faces!

We are watching the 7.30pm performance Ticket price £14. At 5.30pm we will be going to The Holly Tree Pub for a pre-show meal £20 (Two Courses).

If you wish to come along, please contact Jenny jenny@thepickerings.info or phone 01903 713737 or WhatsApp 07986 090283

Please state if you wish to watch the play only or if you wish to book for the meal as well.



Agatha Christie's Spider's Web

Rehearsals have started with a mixture of old and new faces to Rustington Players in the cast. Blocking the scenes has been interesting as there are several doors, including a secret door (Spoiler!) and working out the complex entrances and exits has been a bit of a challenge! However now the blocking is complete, the rehearsals can flow. It's shaping up to be an intricate web of lies and deceit with a little bit of humour thrown in.



Chaperones

Are you a licenced Chaperone? Would you be interested in becoming a chaperone to look after children backstage? Courses are now done online and a DBS check is a requirement. In the past our Rustington Players Chaperones have chaperoned for other society's shows and they for us. Please contact Jenny if you would like to become a chaperone or if you already have a licence.

To apply for a West Sussex chaperone licence please follow the link below Rustington Players will reimburse fee to any member that becomes a chaperone.

<https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/education-children-and-families/keeping-children-safe/employing-children/chaperone-licence/#applying-for-or-renewing-a-chaperone-licence>

Please also see below for details on the application process.

Applying for or renewing a chaperone licence

To apply for a licence, you must be:

- 18 or over
- Living in West Sussex.

We are no longer offering face-to-face training and instead all applicants will need to have completed the NSPCC training course Protecting children in entertainment training for chaperones | NSPCC Learning and have obtained your certificate of completion. This training requires a payment to the NSPCC.

Applications can then be made online and should take no more than 10 minutes to complete.

The application requires you to upload the following documents:

- NSPCC certificate.
- Copy of your identification documents to enable the Disclosure and Barring (DBS) check.

For more information on what documents are acceptable please see the Government's web pages for ID checking guidelines for countersignatory applications (GOV.UK).

In addition, you will need to add details of two referees and their email addresses. Please ensure your referees know you have named them and encourage them to respond promptly to contacts from us.

Payment will also be taken during the completion of the form. It is recommended you have everything ready. On submission you will receive an email acknowledgment of your application and information as to how to validate your identification documents

Rustington Players present
Agatha Christie's

spider's
web

Directed by
Jenny Pickering

Wed 12th - Sat 15th March 2025
at 19.30, Doors & Bar open at 19.00
Woodlands Centre, Rustington, BN16 3HB
Tickets £12 from www.ticketsource.co.uk/rustingtonplayers
or call 07546 306 438 (also available on the door)

This amateur production of "Spider's Web" is presented by arrangement with
Concord Theatricals Ltd. on behalf of Samuel French Ltd. www.concordtheatricals.co.uk

Registered Charity No. 1173735



2025 Productions

Here are the future plans for next year.

Spider's Web by Agatha Christie, directed by Jenny Pickering. **March 12th – 15th 2025**

PLEASE SEE PREVIOUS PAGES FOR MORE DETAILS

Steel Magnolias by Robert Harling, directed by Vinny Shepherd. **June 11th – 14th 2025**

A touching and funny play for 6 women, set in a beauty parlour in Louisiana. Spanning 3 years, the staff and customers engage in small town gossip but we see a deep strength and purposefulness emerge when tragedy strikes close to home.

AUDITIONS FOR STEEL MAGNOLIAS are on Wednesday 5th February in our rehearsal room (John de Bohun) at The Woodlands Centre at 7.30pm.

This is a funny and touching play for 6 women of varying ages. It is set in the 80's in a small town Beauty Parlour in Louisiana so a Louisiana accent is important (think Dolly Parton)... This is a time of 'big hair' and make-up! 2 of the characters are hairdressers and will need to look like they know what they're doing.. For further information and an audition pack please email vinnysshepherd@hotmail.co.uk (Director)

It's A Wonderful Life by Mary Elliott Nelson (*based on the critically acclaimed classic film*), directed by Claire Cossins. **November 12th – 15th 2025**

(This is provisional, subject to obtaining the licence to perform.)

'Every time a bell rings, an angel gets his wings'.....

It's Christmas Eve, 1946, Bedford Falls. Down-on-his-luck banker George Bailey feels like his life has passed him by, and he's at the end of his rope. But when George's guardian angel pays him a visit, he's amazed to discover what life in his beloved town would be like without him. Maybe it's a wonderful life after all?

This is a play for a cast of mixed ages: 5 men, 3 women and 3 boys and 2 girls. There is also an ensemble to play a multiple of roles.

Auditions yet to be confirmed but planned for July 2025 with rehearsals starting in September.

To register your interest or find out more, contact Claire on clairecossins2@gmail.com