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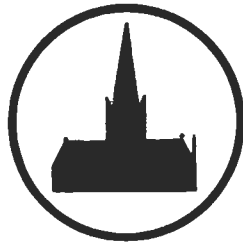
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**CLUMBER PLAYERS**  
Open Air Classical Theatre



NATIONAL TRUST  
(Clumber Park)



CLUMBER PLAYERS  
Open Air Classical Theatre

## THE CLUMBER PLAYERS

PROUDLY PRESENT

# *Much Ado About Nothing*

by WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE



Wednesday July 3rd ~ Saturday July 6th 2002

In the Old Turning Yard, Clumber Park, Worksop, Notts at 7.30 pm

The Clumber Players are a Registered Charity

## Clumber Players Past Productions

1980 : Twelfth Night  
1982 : A Midsummer Night's Dream  
1982 : Il Fornicazione (Clumber Park Spectacular)  
1983 : Much Ado About Nothing  
1984 : The School For Scandal  
1985 : The Taming Of The Shrew  
1986 : Canterbury Tales  
1987 : A Winter's Tale  
1988 : Romeo And Juliet  
1989 : The Merchant Of Venice  
1990 : As You Like It  
1991 : The Recruiting Officer  
1992 : The Merry Wives Of Windsor  
1992 : The King's Entertainment at Welbeck (Masque)  
1993 : Macbeth  
1994 : The Rivals  
1995 : The Comedy Of Errors  
1996 : She Stoops to Conquer  
1997 : Measure for Measure  
1998 : King Lear  
1999 : A Midsummer Night's Dream  
2000 : Twelfth Night  
2001 : A Man For All Seasons  
2002 :

## Future Productions

2003 : Julius Caesar  
by William Shakespeare

Wed 2nd July - Sat 5th July 2003

OLD TURNING YARD, CLUMBER PARK, WORKSOP

For more details please phone:  
Mrs Pat Thomas 01909 731778



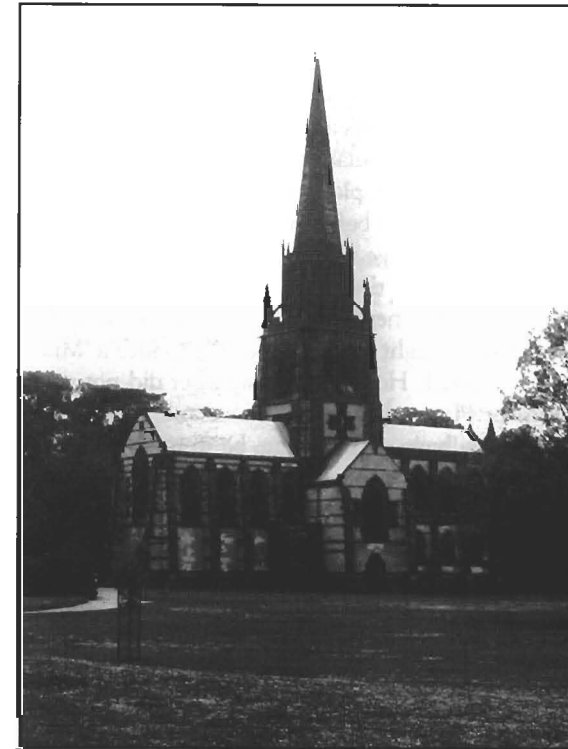
CLUMBER PLAYERS  
Open Air Classical Theatre

# 'Much Ado about Nothing'

by William Shakespeare

OPEN AIR THEATRE, CLUMBER PARK, WORKSOP

Performed in conjunction with the National Trust, Clumber Park.



## WHO ARE THE CLUMBER PLAYERS? What are They?

Many moons ago, back in the spring of 1979 to be precise, a couple of local thespians, members of different groups, could be heard idly speculating on the chances of being involved in a Shakespearean production. They came to the conclusion that, although potentially the requisite number of actors could be found if various groups joined forces, there was no suitable venue available.

In the summer of the same year, two members of the then Worksoop Dramatic Society were talking with officials of the National Trust in Clumber Park in connection with a different project. The subject of the walled garden was raised and, though it was not suitable for the event under discussion, it suggested other possibilities - a Shakespearean production.

Members of three local groups came together for a meeting to discuss the matter, Lindrick players, Portland Players and Worksoop Dramatic Society (now Dukeries Theatre Group). The upshot of these discussions was the decision to stage the joint production of a Shakespeare play in the walled gardens, - the play selected? Twelfth Night.

A temporary stage was erected on pallets and the performances were received with enthusiasm. That should have been it, but the Players, always gluttons for punishment, decided that they wished to repeat the exercise, however they were not such gluttons for punishment that they wished to lug pallets around again.

The die was cast. The Players would, if they were permitted so to do, build a permanent stage and present productions annually. Lengthy discussions with Clumber Park ensued, with permission given and stipulations as to the materials to be used.

Throughout 1981 and 1982 the players laboured to raise money, dig footings, mix cement and to build the stage you see before you. In June 1982, exactly 1 week before the inaugural production upon it, the stage was completed. It was with considerable pride that the Players gave it into ownership of the National Trust.

That first production on the new stage was 'A Midsummer Nights Dream'. With a different group of individuals it might well have turned into a 'Midsummer Nightmare' - it rained - and rained and rained! However, the weather did not succeed in damping the enthusiasm of the Clumber Players or the audiences and early on in their existence the Players set a tradition. If they have an audience, be it an audience of only one, they will play, regardless of the elements are doing.

From those early beginnings - a one off production - the scope and reputation of the Clumber Players has grown. They are very aware of and humbled by, the loyalty of the audiences, many of whom travel considerable distances to share with them year after year. Without you, the audience, the Players' work would be futile and in the words of Feste in Twelfth Night, they will:-

*"Strive to please you everyday"*

## *Much Ado about Nothing*

*"Much Ado About Nothing" was probably written in the winter of 1598-99 and printed in 1600. Only two performances of the play within Shakespeare's lifetime are recorded, both at court in 1613 as part of the marriage festivities of Princess Elizabeth to the Elector of Palatine. At one of these the play was entitled, "Bendicke and Betteris", confirming for most people, these are the more memorable characters.*

*As usual, Shakespeare "stole" his starting plot by taking over a story that was already fairly well known and weaving together strands from different versions. The story of Hero and Claudio dates back to an ancient Greek romance and various sixteenth century poets had written on the theme; notably Matteo Bandello and Ludovico Ariosto. Shakespeare took some character names and the setting of Messina from Bandello, together with the main outline of the story, and adapted the plot and characteristics of these to fit his vision of the whole.*

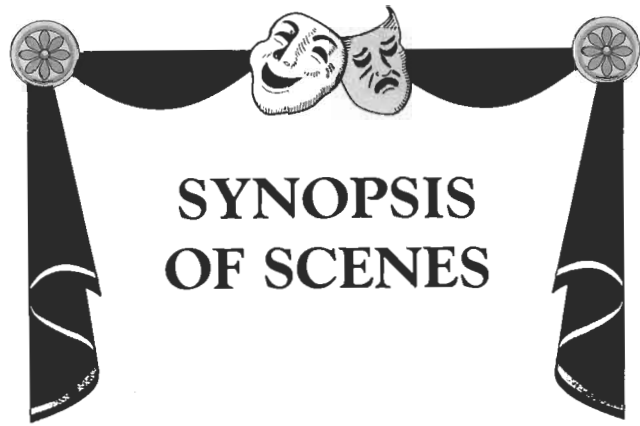
*The most vibrant characters of the play, however are Shakespeare's own invention; namely Beatrice, Benedick, Dogberry and Verges and it is these individuals who provide the most memorable incidents, the sparkle and "the human touch".*

*Don Pedro, Prince of Arragon, with Claudio and Benedick visit Leonato, Duke of Messina. Claudio falls in love with Hero, Leonato's beautiful daughter and arrangements are made for their marriage.*

*Beatrice, Leonato's lively orphaned niece, has for a long time waged a war of words with Benedick in a love/hate relationship. A plot is devised to make them fall in love.*

*Meanwhile, on a darker note, Don John, Don Pedro's malignant, bastard brother, is determined to wreck everyone's happiness and schemes to ruin Hero's reputation.*





## SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

ACT I	Scene 1	Outside Leonato's
	Scene 2	Inside Leonato's
	Scene 3	Inside Leonato's
ACT II	Scene 1	Hall inside Leonato's
	Scene 2	Inside Leonato's
	Scene 3	Orchard
ACT III	Scene 1	Orchard
	Scene 2	Inside Leonato's
~ 15 Minute Interval ~		
ACT III	Scene 3	Street
	Scene 4	Hero's Room
	Scene 5	Inside Leonato's
ACT IV	Scene 1	Church
	Scene 2	Prison
ACT V	Scene 1	Outside Leonato's
	Scene 2	Orchard
	Scene 3	Churchyard
	Scene 4	Inside Leonato's

## CHARACTERS

Don Pedro, <i>Prince of Arragon</i> .....	Laurie Goy
Benedick, <i>of Padua</i> .....	James Webb
Claudio, <i>of Florence</i> .....	Ian Grant
Don John, <i>Don Pedro's bastard brother</i> .....	Dave Ward
Borachio, <i>follower of Don John</i> .....	Malcolm Jones
Conrade, <i>follower of Don John</i> .....	Greg Chesters
Leonato, <i>Governor of Messina</i> .....	Mike Tomlinson
Antonio, <i>his brother</i> .....	Steve Belshaw
Balthasar, <i>a singer</i> .....	Steve Rowan
Friar Francis, <i>a priest</i> .....	Richard Wood
Hero, <i>Leonato's daughter</i> .....	Laura Hall
Margaret, <i>Attendant on Hero</i> .....	Angie Chesters
Ursula, <i>Attendant on Hero</i> .....	Rebecca Ransford
Beatrice, <i>an orphan, Leonato's niece</i> .....	Gail Belshaw
Dogberry, <i>the Constable in charge of the watch</i> .....	Barry Nicholls
Verges, <i>Dogberry's partner in authority</i> .....	Les Blackshaw
Sexton.....	Jonathan Paulger
1 <sup>st</sup> Watchman.....	Bob Lockett
2 <sup>nd</sup> Watchman .....	Brad Burnett
Messengers & Attendants .....	Bob Lockett, Tom Voice, Luke Nicholson
Altar Boys .....	Tom Voice & Luke Nicholson

**Don Pedro - Laurie Goy**

It gives me great pleasure to welcome Laurie back to the Clumber stage. Previously a prolific member of both the Clumber Players and the Dukeries Theatre Group, Laurie says he has been on sabbatical for the last 8 years (feeble excuse if you ask me!). Laurie's interests away from the stage include art, modelling, building gadgets and drinking - he says he is currently doing a season at the Carlton Tavern!

**Benedick - James Webb**

Of his character Benedick, James says "his transformation from sceptical bachelor to adoring suitor is intriguing and a delight" (Something he has discovered for himself when time and distance permit.). James had played a wide range of roles for both Dukeries Theatre Group and Clumber Players ranging from a drunken vet in Key For Two to Snug in Midsummer Nights Dream.

**Claudio - Ian Grant**

Ian certainly gets about a bit, and has had successes both as actor and director for various local groups including Dukeries Theatre Group and Retford Little Theatre and has even had walk on parts in the tv series Peak Practise. Away from theatricals Ian enjoys his kids, Formula 1 racing, beer, food and sleep.

**Don John - David Ward**

A stalwart of both Dukeries Theatre Group and The Clumber Players, Dave's favourite plays include 'Shakers' and 'There goes The Bride' and his favourite parts are The Officer in 'The Comedy of Errors' and Bill in 'There Goes The Bride'. Dave's hobby is gardening, he say the theatricals takes up the rest of his time!

**Borachio - Malcolm Jones**

Another welcome back to the clumber stage for Malcolm. He says he particularly likes the part of Borachio as he is a nasty manipulator and is totally unlike Malcolm himself! Malcolm says his previous roles are far too many to mention but among his favourites are Inspector Goole in "An Inspector Calls", and Professor Higgins in "My Fair Lady". In his spare time (!!) Malcolm is involved in the Rotary Club and has been a member of Doncaster Rotary Club for 24 years.

**Conrade - Greg Chesters**

This is Greg's fourth appearance for the Clumber Players. When he's not at school, rehearsal or tidying his room (which of course he does all of the time - NOT!), Greg enjoys singing and playing the piano and saxophone and also enjoys listening and jumping around to rock 'n' roll (hence the cracks in the ceiling!). In the role of Conrade, he particularly enjoyed calling people "an ass".

**Leonato - Mike Tomlinson**

Mike enjoys Much Ado because the play has humour, scheming and pathos. Mike also treads the boards for Retford Little Theatre, Retford Operatic Society, Dukeries Theatre Group, and Blyth players, his favourites parts include Scrooge in 'A Christmas Carol', Bob in 'Pack of Lies' and Sir Thomas More in "A Man For All Seasons". Whatever time he has left is taken up with the 3 G's; Golfing, Gardening and Grandchildren.

**Antonio - Steve Belshaw**

Steve's first time on Clumber stage. He caught the bug whilst at school (I'm surprised he can remember that far back!) and has since played many roles for many societies. One of his favourites is Annie because his wife (Gail) played his secretary and had to say "yes sir" lots of times! We wanted to know if Gail was as sarcastic as Beatrice in real life but Steve was too much of a gent to say!

**Balthasar - Steve Rowan**

Steve is also a member of Worksop Light Operatics Society and DTG. Steve has played a wide range of roles from Henry VIII in last year's "A Man For All Seasons" to the Village Idiot in WLOS pantos (although some may say that character required very little acting on Steve's part!), he also played the part a teetotal, keep fit fanatic in DTG Autumn production of "Gym & Tonic" (now that did require considerable acting skills!).

**Friar Francis - Richard Wood**

Please welcome another newcomer to the Clumber stage, Richard enjoys Open Air Shakespeare and previously played Don Pedro in a 1998 production. His other roles include Shylock in "Merchant of Venice", Jimmy Porter in "Look Back in Anger" and 1st Voice in "Under Milkwood". When he's not onstage Richard enjoys football and follows Reading FC. and also enjoys being a Dad, golf, karate, kickboxing (please note, no sarcastic comments - too dangerous!)

**Hero - Laura Hall**

A Clumber regular, this is Laura's fourth appearance. A very talented young lady, Laura enjoys playing the flute and regularly performs with the Notts County Orchestra, she also enjoys singing and dancing and eating copious amounts of chocolate! (She says it cures her exam nerves - the best excuse yet!)

**Margaret - Angie Chesters**

This is Angie's second appearance for Clumber Players, her first was in the 2000 production of "Twelfth Night". A member of the Dukeries Theatre Group, Angie says she always seems to play ladies of somewhat questionable character! Her favourite parts are Harriet in "Key For Two" and her all time favourite is Maria in "Twelfth Night". Angie also enjoys singing and reading.





### **Ursula - Rebecca Ransford**

Yet another newcomer to the Clumber stage, Rebecca has performed a diverse range of roles from God to Sweeney Todd (the mind boggles!) in various groups and in recent times has helped backstage for DTG. When she's not working as a taste tester for Walkers Crisps (actually she's a production manager but that's boring!), Rebecca likes cooking, skiing and sailing (but not all at the same time!).

### **Beatrice - Gail Belshaw**

Gail enjoys the part of Beatrice because she says she is a "spirited lady". A member of various groups including the Phoenix Theatre Co and last year she got to play the part of the wicked witch in "Oz" which she says was great fun. When she's not on stage, Gail enjoys walking, talking, gardening, swimming and singing.



### **Dogberry - Barry Nicholls**

Barry describes his character as being loud, brash, ignorant and devious (no typecasting then!?) but inadvertently a hero. This is Barry's third appearance for The Clumber Players since joining us as Sir Andrew Aguecheek in the 2000 production of Twelfth Night. Barry also enjoys teaching creative writing, fishing, jogging and reading.

### **Verges - Les Blackshaw**

Les has fond memories of this play the first time around, in 1983 it was his first introduction to Shakespeare. His all time favourite for the Clumber Players is Solario in "Merchant of Venice" and his favourite for the Worksop Drama Society (now the Dukeries Theatre Group) is Rev Humphrey in "See How They Run". Other hobbies include a general interest in all forms of classic/ vintage transport, computers and photography.



### **Sexton - Jonathan Paulger**

A Clumber production without Jonathan just wouldn't be the same; this is his twentieth appearance for the Clumber Players. His favourite parts include Judge Scales in 'The Recruiting Officer' and the Man in The Moon in 'A Midsummer's Night Dream'. Jonathan enjoys travelling and listening to classical music.

### **Watchman & Messenger - Bob Lockett**

Making his first appearance for the Clumber Players, Bob first ever appearance on stage was in Panto last year. When asked about his favourite plays Bob answered "this production of "Much Ado About Nothing" (good answer - he'll go far!) and Hamlet. When asked what he does off-stage, Bob described himself as "a crime-novelist scratching a living working part-time in a primary school and a failed guitarist". (a pretty strange combination to say the least!).



### **2nd Watchman - Brad Burnett**

More at home in the pub than on stage, this is Brad's first appearance for the Clumber Players. By day (and night) Brad is the landlord of the Carlton Tavern (probably a useful experience for this part!). In his spare time he can be found pottering around the garden or hiding in the green house (he's in training to become Alan Titchmarsh!). Brad's biggest vice is his rather dodgy choice of football shirts!

### **Messenger, Attendant & Altar Boy - Tom Voice**

Currently a pupil at Kingston Junior School, Tom is another making his first appearance for Clumber Players. He enjoys playing and watching football and running his Mum ragged!



### **Messenger, Attendant & Altar Boy - Luke Nicholson**

The last of our newcomers, Luke is also a pupil at Kingston Junior School and he enjoys football and playing the violin

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# A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Having last year ventured away from the Bard with "A Man For All Seasons" and the challenges associated with a play which, on first reading relies heavily on lighting effects impossible in the open air, it was with a sense of pleasing familiarity I returned to the a Shakespeare play with its different problems.

"Much Ado About Nothing" is a second time around for me and I toyed with endeavouring to find my director's script from the first time. This idea was soon abandoned, however, on two grounds. The practical reason was that I wouldn't have known where to begin to look for it but more importantly because this is a new production with a different set of players.

It is a privilege and a pleasure to direct for Clumber Players with the talented individuals who come from all around the area. It is wonderful to see, regardless of differences of age and lifestyle, the way they work as a group whether on stage or behind the scenes. There are no "Prima Donnas"; the person who makes the tea or distributes posters is no less important than the one who plays the leading role. All are essential cogs in the machine that is the Clumber Players. My heartfelt thanks go to each and every one of them, those involved in the production and the wonderful Committee who labour quietly throughout the year to ensure all goes smoothly.

*Gill Wenger*



*The Clumber Players are privileged to be associated with the National Trust in beautiful Clumber Park.*

*Clumber is just one of the superb properties preserved for the Nation by the National Trust.*

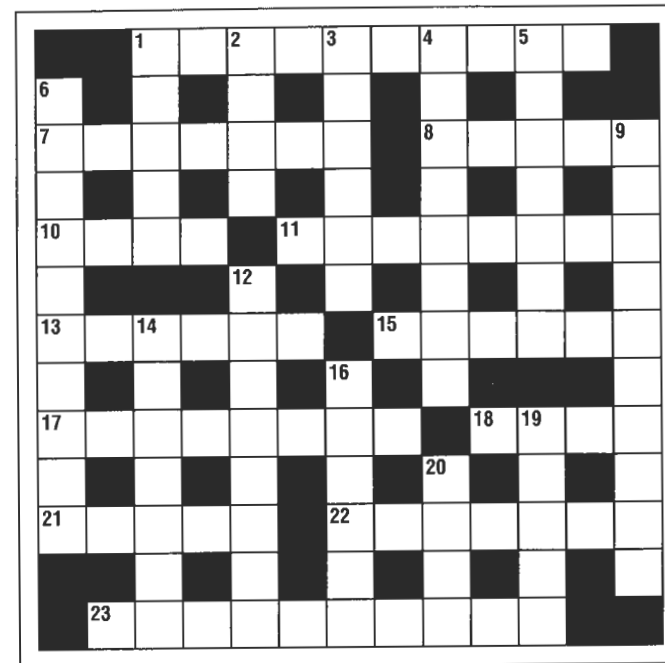
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# CROSSWORD

## Notes

7, 11 & 18 across and 4,5,12, & 16 down all appear in our story. There are no subsidiary parts to these clues.



## CLUES ACROSS

1. 'e made yacht: - incorrect - educational establishment required. (3, 7)
7. Many praise few (7)
8. Space research centre student gets up your nose. (5)
10. Six gone. (4)
11. Good mate of Tom and Harry. (8)
13. There's a new crowd in these. (6)
15. A replacement for direction makes cooks become holy men. (6)
17. Woodland source of calcium hydroxide? (4, 4)
18. She has nothing! (4)
21. I knew 'en we hear reversed my boredom. (5)
22. Naval issue with sheep can create fabric. (7)
23. Did this when the Queen made sure alteration would fit. (10)

## CLUES DOWN

1. Innately more than ever a Scottish nobleman. (5)
2. All's well, they say, that does this well. (4)
3. A hundred amours? - spicy stuff! (6)
4. Do ponder change in his identity. (3, 5)
5. Dining hall girl. (7)
6. Perform an untruth? (3, 3, 1, 3)
9. Kneel to Sim, unfortunately he feels antipathy in my direction. (5, 3, 2)
12. Hit the grain. (8)
14. Love can be fictional. (7)
16. Road edges? (6)
19. Sinned in order redrafted. (5)
20. Alluring woman loses one for a period of time. (4)

*For solution see page 14.*

# FOR THE PRODUCTION

Directed by .....Gill Wenger  
 Production Manager .....Jim Wilson  
 Assisted by .....Les Blackshaw, Tom Warsop  
 Wardrobe .....Rosalie Jones  
 Assisted by.....Helen Cooper  
 Effects.....Tom Warsop  
 Poster design .....Gill Wenger  
 Programme .....Angela Chesters  
 Front of House .....Iris Presswood, Pat & Ron Thomas, Gilly Callaby  
 Chris Wilson, Sandra Jennis

# FOR THE SOCIETY

Chairman .....Gill Wenger  
 Secretary .....Gilly Callaby  
 Treasurer .....Iris Presswood  
 Production Manager .....Jim Wilson  
 Assisted by .....Les Blackshaw  
 Ticket Liaison Officer.....Pat Thomas  
 Publicity Officer .....Angela Chesters  
 Wardrobe .....Barbara Warsop  
 Safety Officer (Honorary) .....David Ward

CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS  
 ACROSS: 1. THE ACADEMY, 7. CLAUDIO, 8. NASAL, 10. OVER, 11. BENEDICK, 13. THREEES,  
 15. FRIARS, 17. LIME TREE, 18. HERO, 21. ENNUI, 22. PROGRAM, 23. REMEASURED.  
 DOWN: 1. THANE, 2. ENDS, 3. CLOVES, 4. DON PEDRO, 5. MESSINA, 6. ACT OUT A LIE,  
 9. LIKES NOT ME, 12. BEATRICE, 14. ROMANCE, 16. VERGES, 19. ERRED, 20. HOUR.

## Gill Wenger - Director

Once again in the director's chair please welcome Gill Wenger. A founder member of the Clumber Players, Gill does her utmost to deliver classical theatre in a way that is entertaining and easy to follow and generally relies on minimal set and props to do so (well most of the time much to Jim's relief). Gill also does her utmost to get youngsters involved, giving them plenty of encouragement and patiently explaining plots and subplots and helping them to make sense of the lines they have to deliver.

Since directing last year's production of "A Man For All Seasons" Gill has been a very busy bee; directing the DTG's autumn production of Gym & Tonic and appearing on stage in DTG's spring production of "Theft" where her part required her to appear somewhat the worse for drink. Being the perfectionist she is, Gill researched the part thoroughly. (In the Carlton Tavern!)

## 'IN REHEARSAL'

