

WINCHESTER MUSICALS AND OPERA SOCIETY PRESENTS

# OH WHAT A LOVELY WAR

11-15 NOV 2014

Theatre Royal Winchester



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Winchester Musicals  
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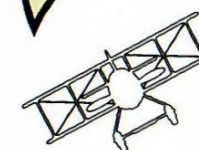
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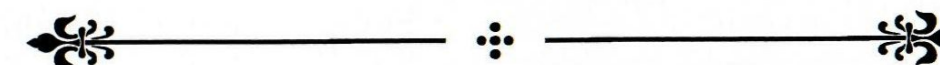
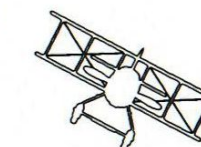
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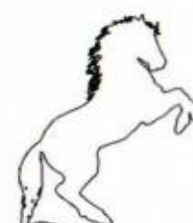
WINCHESTER MUSICALS AND OPERA SOCIETY  
PRESENTS



DIRECTOR & CHOREOGRAPHER:  
**SUZANNE HALL**



MUSICAL DIRECTOR:  
**PETER THEOBALD**





# WITCHES HOME-FIRES BURNING

There will be collections after each performance in aid of SSAFA, the organisation which helps the families of those who serve in the Forces. This help is as important today as it was back in the First World War. *Please give generously.*



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**When war started, SSAFA recruited 50,000 volunteers.  
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**Winchester  
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**Winchester Rotary has supported WMOS for many years – by enabling local citizens to attend matinee performances and also by large group bookings for evening performances. WMOS have returned the favour by adding to the annual Rotary charity carol singing in the High Street and providing entertainment at Rotary functions.**

**The Wednesday performance of *Oh What a Lovely War* has been booked by Winchester Rotary as a Rotary District Theatre night and is sold out as a result. Additionally a party of 40 senior citizens will be enabled by Rotary to attend the Saturday matinee. WMOS is grateful to Winchester Rotary for their continued support.**

**For information about Rotary in Winchester visit: [winchesterrotary.ning.com](http://winchesterrotary.ning.com)  
Or email: [rotaryinwinchester@gmail.com](mailto:rotaryinwinchester@gmail.com)**

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome to our November Production, Joan Greenwood's satirical musical, "Oh What a Lovely War," which highlights the ironies and tragedies of World War One.

We are particularly delighted to be able to present this piece during the anniversary week of the outbreak of World War One.

Our chosen charity is SSAFA which we feel is appropriate to this production and we hope you will support the retiring collection on leaving the Theatre.

Our Director, Suzanne Hall, has brought her vision and enthusiasm to the work which I am sure you will agree has resulted in an exciting, entertaining and moving performance.

We are pleased to welcome Peter Theobald our Musical Director. This is Theo's first production with us and we hope he has enjoyed it as much as we have enjoyed working with him.

Our thanks to Mark Courtice and the staff of the Theatre Royal who always make our visits to the Royal a pleasure. Our congratulations to the Theatre Royal in its Centenary year and what a successful year it has been!

Finally thank you our loyal audience for your continued support and we hope to see you again in the Spring of 2015 for *The Witches of Eastwick*.

**Brian Hurst**

Honorary Vice Presidents and Life Members - Derek Beck, Geoffrey Burnaby, Jo Burnaby, Eileen Evans, Brian Hurst, Bob Jones, Pamela Jones, The Mayor of Winchester, Pamela Peskett, James Sabben-Clare, Richard Steel, Christine Walters, David Weait, Michael Williams.

Council of Management 2013-14 - Brian Hurst (President), Martin Larcombe (Company Secretary), Richard Steel, Anne Croudass, Mary Twomey, Adrian Hickford.

Executive Committee 2013-14 - Mary Twomey (Chairman), Suzanne Hall (Vice-Chairman), Adrian Hickford (Hon. Treasurer), Heather Reid (Hon. Secretary), Alison Carter, Katie Hickson, Vanessa Denson, Liz Petley-Jones, Gill Russell.

WMOS Friends - Tim Ames, Janet Bird, Richard and Maureen Chisnell, Alan Clarke, Valerie Cork, Barrie Dey, Elizabeth Duff, Alice Dyson, Muriel Fisher, John Gibson, Jean Hilton, Austen and Connie Hooker, Irene Johnston, Rosemary Lake, Rupert Marks, John Murray, Brenda Pomeroy, Lady Jane Portal, Joyce Sadd, Carole Steel, Tim Stevens, Richard and Di Threlfall, Paul Tipple, Vernon Tottle, David Weait, Barbara Welch, Margaret Williams, Angela Winteridge.







**Footprints of Sussex** have 25 years experience offering walks throughout the South Downs National Park.

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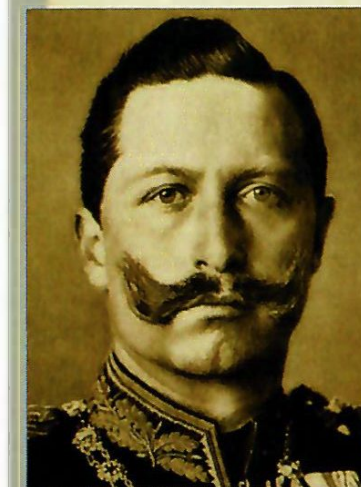
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## KEY FIGURES FROM THE GREAT WAR



**Kaiser Wilhelm II**  
(1859-1941)

Queen Victoria's first grandson. Overtly militaristic, he wanted to increase Germany's military strength. He said that the war would never have happened had Victoria been on the throne. He tried in vain to scale back the offensive in Serbia. Apparently Queen Victoria died in his arms.



**Franz Ferdinand**  
(1863-1914)

Proud and boastful, not overly cultured and bad tempered, he was not a popular leader. His assassination gave Austria-Hungary an excuse to attack Serbia. The situation escalated involving the major European powers because of powerful alliances that they had struck with each other.



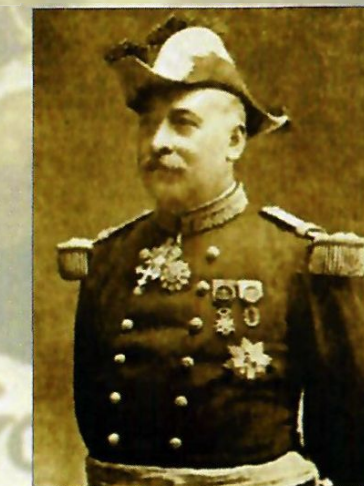
**Sir Douglas Haig**  
(1861-1928)

A somewhat controversial war general who apparently said, "The machine gun is a much over-rated weapon." His 1st Army Corps served well at Mons and at First Ypres. In 1918 Haig oversaw the successful British advances on the Western Front which led to victory for the Allies.



**Sir John French**  
(1852-1925)

Commanded the British Expeditionary Force in 1914. Concerned about the troops welfare he had to be urged by Kitchener to stiffen his resolve. When succeeded by Haig, French commanded the British Home Forces until 1918, including dealing with the Irish uprising.



**Charles Lanrezac**  
(1852-1925)

Caustic, bad tempered and blunt, only his brilliance and logic kept him employed. Poor communication led to confusion in his dealings with the British Expeditionary Force. He was scathing of Sir John French.



**Mrs Pankhurst**  
(1858-1928)

Emmeline Pankhurst fought for women's suffrage for 25 years using militant tactics like arson. She was jailed seven times and participated in hunger strikes. In WW1, she urged men to volunteer for the front and women to do the jobs they left.





**PETER BARBER** is a retired commercial lawyer on rail, defence, construction and engineering projects. He enjoys swimming, cycling, skiing, gardening(at least cutting the grass), and has a love of Italy.

**FOR WMOS:** Alfio the Carter(Cavalleria Rusticana), Julian Marsh(42nd Street), Moonface Martin(Anything Goes), Tevye (Fiddler on the Roof), Captain Corcoran (HMS Pinafore), Uncle Willie(High Society).  
**OTHER:** Performances all round the south of England. Accents spanning New York to Moscow via Tredegar.



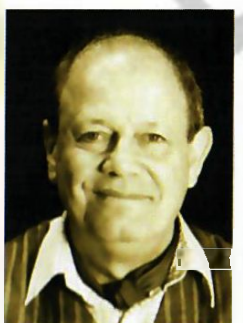
**JAMES BUTLER** is a teacher working in Southampton. He is an active member of The Scout Association.

**FOR WMOS:** First Show!  
**OTHER:** Thenardier(Les Miserables, Imagine Productions)



**KEVIN DENSON** is an an IT project manager and enjoys cycling in his spare time. During the rehearsal period he got married.

**FOR WMOS:** First Show!  
**OTHER:** BA in Theatre Studies from Rose Bruford College. Three Musketeers(Chesil Theatre), Barefoot in the Park, Murder in the Red Barn, Cabaret, Caucasian Chalk Circle.



**STEPHEN GLEED** is a teacher who is interested in genealogy. In his spare time he enjoys tennis and hiking.

**FOR WMOS:** Avram(Fiddler on the Roof), Chester(High Society), Bandleader(Billy) and various chorus parts.

**OTHER:** Judas in the Winchester Passion Play and was a founding member of Littleton Players.



**CRESSIDA BULLOUGH** is a newly qualified teacher yet is still finding time to get to rehearsals. She also models hats.

**FOR WMOS:** Rita (Billy), in the chorus for Anything Goes and High Society. As a child, drummer boy in Gondoliers, Carousel and Iolanthe.

**OTHER:** Opera Comique, In Their Own Words, Pocket Theatre.



**ANNE CROUDASS** is a Nurse and also a talented musician playing the clarinet, saxophone and flute. She enjoys cooking.

**FOR WMOS:** Brenda(Pajama Game), Melissa (Princess Ida), Lady Saphir(Patience) and numerous cameo roles involving tap shoes and body rolls. **OTHER:** With Pocket Theatre - Queen of the Fairies(Iolanthe), Baroness(Grand Duke)



**CHRIS GLEED** is a student at Peter Symonds College. He enjoys tennis and football and playing on his Xbox 360.

**FOR WMOS:** First Show!  
**OTHER:** Shepherd Boy(Tosca), Tristan and Isolde, Idomeneo all for Grange Park Opera. Has auditioned for English National Opera.



**Adrian Hickford** is a university researcher and enjoys choral singing in his spare time.  
**FOR WMOS:** Fred Graham(Kiss Me Kate), Vernon Hines(Pajama Game), winner of Curtain Call Award for best performance in a musical), Mike Connor

(High Society), Ko-Ko(Mikado), Danilo(Merry Widow) **OTHER:** With Pocket Theatre - Pirate King (Pirates of Penzance),The Grand Duke(The Grand Duke), King Paramount(Utopia Ltd), Lord Chancellor(Iolanthe)



**KATIE HICKSON** is a vocal teacher. She enjoys walking and has almost completed the three peaks challenge. She loves cooking and hopes to be on Bake Off one day.

**FOR WMOS:** Tracy Lord(High Society), Liz(Billy), Reno Sweeney(Anything Goes), Josephine(HMS Pinafore), Lady Jane(Patience). Took over the lead role in 42nd Street when the actual lead was taken ill. **OTHER:** Nunsense, Elegies for Angels, Punks and Raging Queens(Music Theatre South) A member of Southern Eclectic.



**ANNE MCDONALD** is recently retired from Catering Operations. She has been on stage since she was 12 years old.  
**FOR WMOS:** Alice, Billy's mum(Billy), Pitti Sing (Mikado), Eurydice (Orpheus in the Underworld),

Valencienne(Merry Widow), Michaela (Carmen) **OTHER:** With Worksop Operatic Society - Laurey(Oklahoma), Julie Jordan(Carousel), Nellie Forbush(South Pacific). Sang Madame Thenardier from Les Mis. at The Palace Stage, London.



**SIMON MEANWELL-RALPH** is a millinery and jewellery designer who runs his own business 'Marvellous Millinery'.

**FOR WMOS:** WMOS: Motel(Fiddler on the Roof), Shadrack(Billy), Man with cardboard iphone(HMS Pinafore), Butler(High Society), Man with champagne glass(Merry Widow)

**OTHER:** Goodbye Mr Chips and Victory at Chichester Festival Theatre



**DAN HICKSON** works with insurance claims. He started playing trumpet in the orchestra for WMOS shows before trying out the stage.

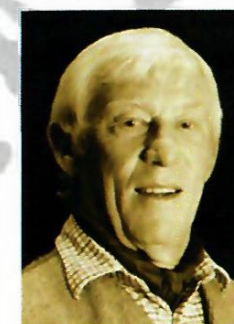
**FOR WMOS:** Dexter(High Society), Ralph(HMS Pinafore), Sky Masterson(Guys and Dolls), Frederick(Pirates of Penzance), Camille(Merry Widow)

**OTHER:** Sings with Southern Eclectic



**LOUISE HODSON** is a teacher and in her spare time enjoys dancing and teaching dance.

**FOR WMOS:** Choreographer for High Society, Fiddler on the Roof, Anything Goes, 42nd Street and numerous G and S. Chorus member for over 10 years, often as lead dancer. **OTHER:** Louise performs with Pocket Theatre Company and worked on Footlights Youth Theatre's award winning production of Miss Saigon.



**HAMISH MCDONALD** is retired from agricultural research. He will play any musical instrument he can get his hands on. He enjoys playing piano in pubs.

**FOR WMOS:** Geoffrey, Billy's father(Billy), Cascada(Merry Widow), Frosch(Die Fledermaus), Pantomime Dame(Dick Whittington) and many chorus roles in G&S, musicals and operettas. **OTHER:** Chairman - Malton & Norton Operatic Society, For Worksop Operatic: Danny(Calamity Jane), Luther Billis(South Pacific)





**HELEN O'SULLIVAN** is a Charity Worker and enjoys travelling. She recently taught for 3 months in India.  
**FOR WMOS:** Sally (Me and My Girl), Sarah Brown (Guys and Dolls - winner of Curtain Call Award for best performance in a musical),

Tessa (Gondoliers), Constance (The Sorceror)  
**OTHER:** Director of The Sorceror at The Minack Theatre, Helen Kroger (Pack of Lies, Colden Common Drama Group) Directed 'Daybreak' in 4 churches over Easter 2013



**EMMA JANE SMITH** is now a retail manager having come to Winchester to study at the University.

**FOR WMOS:** a singing and dancing maid in High Society  
**OTHER:** Lilly St Regis (Annie, Winchester Girl Guides), Dancer in Fat Sams Grand Slam (Bugsy Malone, Graves Entertainment and Musical Society)



**DENISE TRUSCOTT** is a former commercial analyst in the oil industry. She now manages property and has her hands full with twin boys, oh, and learning Spanish.

**FOR WMOS:** First show!  
**OTHER:** Singing and Dancing roles with Barnes and Richmond Operatic Society and acting with Teddington Theatre club.



**JULIET SURRIDGE - DANCE CAPTAIN, ASM**  
 Juliet is a faculty Administrator at Peter Symonds College. She learnt her trade as a dancer on The Black and White Minstrel Show and on Cunard Ships. She has tangoed in The Valentino Film. Juliet joined WMOS as Diane in 42nd Street and has since appeared as a Saucy Clone in 'HMS Pinafore', Chastity in 'Anything Goes' and the role she was born to play: Marilyn Monroe in 'Billy'. In her spare time she likes to do a bit of painting and drawing.



**LIZ PETLEY-JONES** is a retired school teacher and is now indulging her passion for the arts by painting and studying photography. She is a keen set painter when she is not travelling around the world.

**FOR WMOS:** Eliza Doolittle (My Fair Lady), Ado Annie and Aunt Eller - not the same production (Oklahoma!), Golde (Fiddler on the Roof - nominated for a Curtain Call Award), Calamity Jane, Dolly (Hello, Dolly) Director for High Society  
**OTHER:** trained at Guildhall School of Music and Drama and is a member of Chesil Theatre and Southern Eclectic.



**IAIN STEEL** is a funeral director and in his spare time he enjoys running and holidays. He also loves his work.

**FOR WMOS:** Curly (Oklahoma), Bill (Me and My Girl), Pirate King (Pirates of Penzance), Billy (Carousel), Lord Evelyn (Anything Goes), Camille (Merry Widow)  
**OTHER:** Albin (La Cage Aux Folles, SJ Productions), Nicely Nicely (Guys and Dolls, SMS), Sergei (Eurobeat), Miss Deep South (Pageant) both for Music Theatre South



**LUCY WHITEMAN** is a teacher in Winchester. She loves singing, dancing and travelling. She has a mad cat.

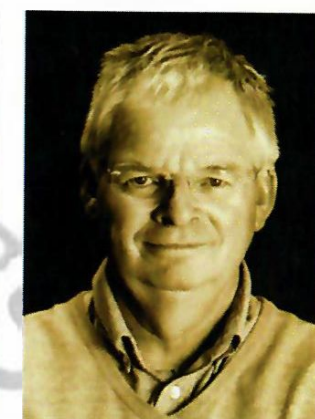
**FOR WMOS:** Chava (Fiddler on the Roof), Praskovia (Merry Widow), Lady Angela (Patience), Barbara (Billy) several chorus appearances.  
**OTHER:** Pocket Theatre Company and Pantomimes



**SUZANNE HALL - DIRECTOR AND CHOREOGRAPHER**  
 Suzanne studied Drama and Education at King Alfred's College in Winchester, leaving her home town of Ilfracombe where she had been dancing and singing on stage since she was three years old. She has been a member of WMOS for 15 years and in that time has taken various roles on and off stage: Director and Choreographer (Pajama Game, Billy), Oklahoma, La Vie Parisienne, Kiss Me Kate (Choreographer) Ado Annie (Oklahoma), Miss Adelaide (Guys and Dolls) Erma (Anything Goes), Maggie (42nd Street), Liz Imbrie (High Society). Suzanne also performs and directs with West Meon Theatre notably as Landlady in 'Two', Helen in 'Dark Earth and the Light Sky' and part of the ensemble cast of 'Cider with Rosie'. She runs a Bed and Breakfast in her Farmhouse where her husband farms, her three children run amok and the chickens produce beautiful free range eggs.

## PETER (THEO) THEOBALD - MUSICAL DIRECTOR

Theo is a retired Primary School teacher. During his time teaching he wrote original music for 37 Christmas Plays. He is Musical Director with West Meon Theatre where he has composed and arranged original music for A Midsummer Night's Dream, Twelfth Night, Alice, Calendar Girls, As you Like it, Dark Earth and the Light Sky and Cider with Rosie which won the Curtain Call Award for Production of the year. Theo plays the keyboard and brass in Bursledon Village Band and the Euphonium in Thornden Community Wind Band. This is his first production with WMOS. In his spare time he can be found on the golf course.



## DIRECTOR'S NOTES

This had been an incredibly exciting piece of theatre to work on with a very talented cast. Oh What A Lovely War requires an acting style which is movement based and it demands a flexible technique in any performer given the multiplicity of roles he/she is required to play. In this show there are no 'stars', but a committed ensemble who work together to create their own story.

The production style of Oh What A Lovely War is rooted in the tradition of British Music Hall so this is where we started. We created a troupe of players who would have toured the country, perhaps performing in Theatres like this one, bringing with them their set, costumes and props, entertaining all ages and classes with their universal story of war. The musicians travel with them, playing in the pit, and are very much part of the company. We use hats, jackets and accessories to tell the story, not to give an accurate representation of military and home life in 1914. Since the first production in 1964 there have been great advances in screen projection but we are using the original images and have kept the projection simple as the scenes, songs and pictures are balanced beautifully; nothing else is needed.

At the start, the stage is bare, and the show is created as you watch, at the end the stage is bare again, the show is over, a time for reflection.



## CAST

Peter Barber

Cressida Bullough

James Butler

Anne Croudass

Kevin Denson

Christopher Gleed

Stephen Gleed

Adrian Hickford

Dan Hickson

Katie Hickson

Louise Hodson

Anne McDonald

Hamish McDonald

Simon Meanwell-Ralph

Helen O'Sullivan

Liz Petley-Jones

Emma Jane Smith

Iain Steel

Denise Truscott

Lucy Whiteman

## THE SONGS

- Row, Row, Row
- We Don't Want to Lose You
- Belgium put the Kibosh on the Kaiser
- Are We Downhearted?
- I'll Make a Man of You
- If I Were the only Girl in the World
- We're Here Because...
- Pack up your Troubles
- Hitchy Koo
- Stille Nacht
- Christmas in the Cookhouse
- Goodbye-ee
- Oh It's a Lovely War
- Will Ye No Come Back Again
- Gassed Last Night
- Roses are Shining in Picardy
- Hush, Here Comes a Whizzbang
- There's a Long, Long, Trail A-Winding
- Rule Britannia
- I Don't Want to be a Soldier
- Kaiser Bill
- They Were only Playing Leapfrog
- Never Mind
- I Wore a Tunic
- Forward Joe Soap's Army
- No More Soldiering for Me
- I Want to Go Home
- The Bells of Hell
- Keep The Home Fires Burning
- Sister Susie
- I Don't Want to Be a Soldier
- They Didn't Believe Me

## THE BAND

Violin Julia Richardson

Saxophone/Banjo/Accordion Bernard Sully

Flute/Piccolo David Anderson

Clarinet Paul Stiles

Trumpet Wayne Landen

Bass Perri Seymour

Percussion Paul Lovegrove

Keyboard Peter Theobald

## CREW

Stage Manager Angie Barks

Production Manager Katie Hickson

Music Secretary Anne Croudass

Stage Crew Chris Brown, James Flaxman, Colin Paice, Vanessa Denson

Sound Tony Lawther

Slides Isaac Hall

Lights Beki Gregory and Theatre Royal Crew

Props Molly Moffitt, Juliet Surridge

Production Design Suzanne Hall

Set Consultant Sue Aiken

Set Construction David Freemantle with Brian Hurst, Warner Hall, Ian White, David Anderson, Liz Petley-Jones, Peter Theobald, Pam Jones, Sue Aiken

Costumes Suzanne Hall, Katie Hickson, Marina Romanova

Make-up The cast

Programme Liz Petley-Jones and Ashley Burr at Copyman

Publicity Gill Russell and Liz Petley-Jones

Front of House Robert Parsons

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- Theatre Royal
- J. Cutler Scaffolding for loan of scaffold poles
- All Saints Primary School for rehearsal space
- Craig Robertson for Cast and rehearsal photographs
- West Meon Theatre and Riverside Players, Meonstoke for loan of costumes
- Projected images by kind permission of Elizabeth Lomas



# CAST LINKS WITH WORLD WAR 1



Lucy's Great Grandfather, Hugh James Moulant, survived despite being gassed in the trenches near Ypres.



Hamish's Great Uncle, George Arthur Bailey was killed, aged 37, on the first day of the Battle of the Somme. Apparently his sister, Hamish's grandmother, was secretly pleased because he used to bully her!



Peter's maternal grandfather, Brian Linton Oxley survived the war. His picture shows the ribbons from the three medals which were awarded to all those who served. Top: 1914-15 Star Middle: British War Medal Bottom: 1914-18 Victory Medal They were known affectionately as Pip Squeak and Wilfred after the characters in a Daily Mail comic strip.

Liz's father remembered being told to stand on the doorstep to meet his father, Jesse Arthur Chapman, for the first time. He had been born while Jesse was serving on the Russian Front in Archangel.



Stephen's grandfather, Lance Corporal Stanley Meyrick Gosling was a rifleman with the Royal Welsh Fusiliers, 11th Battalion. He served in what became known as "The Forgotten Army" in Macedonia fighting against the Austrians, Bulgarians and Germans. He survived the war. The winters were particularly harsh. He wrote in his diary - 'Heavy snow and blowing a blizzard...our hands and feet cold and absolutely beyond feeling...how we are going to face it, I don't know. Gave 15 cigarettes for a biscuit. I never knew what it was to want at home'.



Frederick William Gleed, Stephen's other grandfather, saw action at the Battle of the Somme. As an engineer, one of his tasks was to crawl out at night into no-man's land to lay white tape on the ground, which led to wire that had been cut for a dawn attack the next day. This was so that in heavy smoke soldiers could look at the ground and still find their way to the holes in the wire. During one of his times as a 'runner', he came across a wounded German, Fritz Biestedt, and carried him back to British lines. The German was grateful and gave my grandfather his medals which included the Iron Cross. Sadly Fritz died 3 days later. Frederick survived the war.

Suzanne Hall's, Great Great Uncle Alfred Price, played his own part in cracking relations between Britain and Germany...

ACCORDING to a report in the Ilfracombe Chronicle of September 12, 1914, when 19-year-old Prince Frederic William of Prussia (later Kaiser Bill) was on holiday in Ilfracombe in August 1878, he enjoyed a daily dip at Rapparee beach. One day, though, feeling a bit bored after his swim, he looked around for something else to do. The prince picked up a stone and hurled it at one of the numbers adorning a row of changing booths. Finding this a fun way to pass the time, he continued to throw stones at the huts. Worried about the abuse of his father's property, the beach attendant's son, Alf Price, decided to go and sort the visitor out. Apparently, when Alf told the future Kaiser to stop throwing stones, the regal visitor retorted: "Do you know who I am?" Alf obviously didn't. Or he decided to take the risk of saying he didn't care who the stone thrower was. The young prince then landed Alf a hard blow on the right jaw. The punch caught Alf by surprise and he fell on to the sands. Alf, 16, then got up and started to fight the prince. The brawl, apparently, lasted around 20 minutes. The prince's tutor and entourage, who had been exploring the neighbourhood, returned and were horrified by the sight of the two lads going at each other hammer and tongs. The tutor pulled them apart. At the time the incident was hushed up but, during the First World War, a poem written by W H Coates about the incident was sent to North Devon lads fighting at the front. Money raised from the sale of the poem locally went to war charities.



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## OH WHAT A LOVELY WAR - 1974

Winchester Dramatic Society from the Chesil Theatre presented Oh What a Lovely War in July 1974 in the octagonal former water storage tower at the Tower Arts Centre, here in Winchester.

The audience sat on either side of a central acting area, with an entrance for actors at each end. The band with keyboard, flute, clarinet and percussion was placed at one end, with the screen for projection of news flashes and photographs above. The stage floor level was varied by low movable platforms to represent trenches, etc. There was no conductor, and the actors took their musical cues from the band. The cast of ten men and ten girls included Liz Petley Jones, now performing again, forty years on!



The play was directed by Geoffrey Burnaby, also responsible for our own Fiddler on the Roof in 1993 and Carmen in 2000. Geoffrey wrote a programme note in which he emphasised the hybrid nature of the show, ending with the words "We hope that you will return home informed, perhaps a little chastened, but above all entertained".

## Maries Florist of Winchester

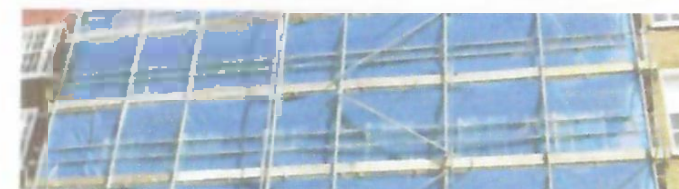
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For further information contact:  
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