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Chairman's Notes

Weeton & Huby Players are essentially a community drama group. Most of the actors and crew live in the local villages, although they are well supported by some able and well-loved contributors from the other side of the river. I appealed three years ago for more people to get involved and we have seen some new faces on stage as a result. In the five productions since then, ten actors and actresses have made their stage debut. Ten! As a result we have doubled our talent pool onstage.

The people who do the lighting, sound, costumes, props, stage build, set décor and front of house are fantastic and a key part of the success of the Players. But the team remains largely unchanged over the same period and it would be a real sign of our success and growth if one of them could take a complete break for one of the future plays without feeling guilty! We could also do with somebody to manage our box office on a permanent basis and to take the lead on developing our marketing - we must finish our website and we have to engage with social media. So if you have enjoyed the show and want to help, catch me afterwards or email me at neil.muffitt@btinternet.com.

A big thanks to the other hall users who accommodate us during play week and to you for continuing to turn up and applaud our efforts.

Now, on with the show and see if you recognise the behaviour of any of your friends and relatives over the next couple of hours...

Neil Muffitt

WEETON & HUBY PLAYERS

In their 92nd season present

Quartet

by Ronald Harwood



Thursday, Friday, Saturday

19th, 20th and 21st March 2015 at 7.45 pm

Almscliffe Village Hall, Huby

Director's Notes

Quartet, recently adapted as a film, was first performed at the Yvonne Arnaud Theatre in Guildford prior to its West End opening at the Albery Theatre (now the Noël Coward Theatre) on 8 September 1999. And what a cast it had - the late Sir Donald Sinden, Alec McCowen, Stephanie Cole and Angela Thorne. The film too had a stellar cast – Dame Maggie Smith, Pauline Collins, Tom Courtenay and Billy Connolly!

The setting for our story is Beecham House, a retirement home for musicians and, when the play opens, three elderly former opera-singers, Reggie, Wilfred and Cissy, who often worked together, are sitting out on the terrace, enjoying the summer sunshine. Their peaceful life, however, is about to be disrupted by the arrival of a former colleague, Jean, a major star in her day, to whom Reggie was once unhappily married - and no-one has thought to warn Reggie that his ex-wife is about to become a fellow resident. Given this troubled history, is there any chance that these four will ever be able to resume their friendship, let alone sing together again at the forthcoming Gala Concert to celebrate Verdi's birthday? You'll soon find out!

As Reggie says in the play, *Art is meaningless if it does not make you feel.*" Following this play's premiere, one London reviewer described it as "*an unashamed — no, shameless — vehicle for four feisty old troupers whose task is to make us laugh a little, sigh a little and cry a little as they take us into the bittersweet world of facing up to age and mortality.*" Whether my cast would describe themselves as "feisty old troupers" I dare not ask, but one thing I do know: you'll enjoy their performances!

Bernard Riley - Director

**A country house in Kent.
The music room and terrace.**

Act One

A June morning

Interval

Act Two

Scene 1

The next day, mid morning

Scene 2

Three weeks later, early morning

Scene 3

10th October, early evening

Quartet

By Ronald Harwood

Cast

**Cecily Robson
Reginald Paget
Wilfrred Bond
Jean Horton**

**Pauline Moulsdale
Chris Holland
Neil Muffitt
Pat Riley**

Directed by Bernard Riley

Set----- Mike Bidgood, Tony Mentlak,
John Hastie and Nathan Varley

Set Décor ----- Jenny Macdonald-Smith

Props ----- Neve Carey

Costume ----- Katy Booth,
Wendy Bennett and Liz Lavender

Lighting----- Traydarti

Sound ----- Dave Kendall

Prompt ----- Dave Protheroe

Photography ----- Nick Goring