

War, lies, fags and determination

Farnham Rep announces new season

The members of Farnham Rep are at it again, and this time they are offering us a world premiere. David Gooderson explains all to Stella Wiseman



David Gooderson

I WAS getting worried. I had heard nothing from Farnham Rep, the company dedicated to keeping professional theatre alive in Farnham. I have seen so many excellent performances by them over the years that their silence was disconcerting and depressing. I am now greatly cheered. It turns out that they have been hard at work preparing new material to be presented as rehearsed readings in both Bordon and Farnham. They are ready for a full season next year. What is more, one of their productions is a world premiere – a new play by David Gooderson, *War! Lies! And a packet of Fags*. It has its first outing next Tuesday (July 1) at 7.30pm with a free reading at the Phoenix Theatre, Bordon, but will be repeated at 3pm on August 9 at Farnham Maltings.

There will also be rehearsed readings of Bernard Shaw's *Pygmalion* – adapted by Farnham Rep's William Whymer – at The Phoenix Theatre Bordon, on July 8 (again, free admission) and in Farnham Library Gardens on July 19, and of Arthur Miller's *All My Sons* in Farnham Library gardens on July 26, along with Alan Ayckbourn's *Time and Time Again* in the library gardens on August 9.

The rehearsed readings are what they say they are – rehearsal play readings by professional actors rather than full-scale productions – and they are a way of reminding people that the company is still there and raising money for next year's productions. The company is determined that it will keep the flame of theatre alive and fresh, and with *War! Lies! And a*

Britain. "He thought he could bring the spirit of reconciliation into the industrial system and tried to get both sides to talk to each other." He worked and worked but felt he was getting nowhere and perhaps this weakened him for he died in 1929 when he was only 46. He is buried in Worcester and at his funeral around 2,000 people lined the streets, some throwing Woodbinnes packets onto his cortege as it passed.

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WIN: Dinner for two at the Lion and Lamb Café, Farnham



Cheers! Brendan in the Lion and Lamb Café. FD26-283-14

so much is made of the study of wine in particular. "It has long been a universal product that has quenched the thirsts of kings and fortified the soldiers going in to battle. It is a product that touches everyone from celebrating with champagne to drowning your sorrows with a neat shot of something to warm the cockles of your heart."

"I believe it was the existentialist Franz Kafka who said 'It is often safer to be in chains than to be free'. With free will, and so much choice, one can make the wrong choice. Nevertheless let's embrace the chance, try different grape varieties. Go back and try an oaked Chardonnay and remember there is a reason why we enjoy the vanilla and melon flavours of the grape."

"Making the decision in a supermarket or a restaurant is not rocket science. Order what you like and try and remember what style of wine you fancy. With today's technology, wine apps and access to more information than at any other time in its existence, it's easier to make an informed choice. Remember it's simply the juice of a fermented grape. Don't get caught up in the marketing and the fancy labels. Keep it simple."

NAME.....
ADDRESS.....
PHONE NO.....
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ANSWER.....
Send your completed form to:
Stella Wiseman,
The Herald Series,
114-115 West Street,
Farnham,
Surrey,
GU9 7HL

bring out that special bottle of Sangiovese. Italy's most popular and widely grown grape variety, by all means bring it along to Lion and Lamb Café. We are hoping that it makes it more affordable for you despite the fact that we have a superb selection of wines that you won't find in any of the local chains in Farnham."

Terms and Conditions
There is one prize of dinner for two at the Lion and Lamb Café, Farnham. No transport costs are provided. The winner will be the first correct entry drawn at random after the closing date, July 9, at noon. Entrants must write 'Lion and Lamb Café competition' on the envelope or in the email subject box, as failure to do so may result in disqualification. The prize is non-transferable and there is no cash alternative. The editor's decision is final.

Brimful of music with the 45

An evening spent in the presence of The Conservatoire Folk Ensemble is a treat. A loud treat it is true, but 45 or so musicians all playing with passion and gusto are going to make a bit of noise.

The Conservatoire Folk Ensemble is made up of musicians from the Birmingham Conservatoire and has been led by Joe Boughton since 1998. He's brought it there that evening as his partner had gone into labour but the others rose to the challenge without any problem and his brother Ben was there on sound.

Most of the musicians are young, all of them are skilled and work together both as an ensemble and in small groups, some of whom have their own separate performing lives. This provided a much-needed variety for, however vibrant and fun they all were together, a whole evening would have been a little overwhelming.

The Conservatoire Folk Ensemble is on tour and is well worth the price of a ticket. For details visit www.folkensemble.co.uk



The Conservatoire Folk Ensemble

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