

## School Plays 1965-68

### 1965 Toad of Toad Hall

A play from Kenneth Grahame's book "The Wind in the Willows" by A.A. Milne.  
15<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> December, 1965



### The Review from the 1966 School Magazine

**Mr. Warren** (photo) chose to produce as this year's school play an adaptation of the novel, "Wind in the Willows" by Kenneth Grahame. The resulting play, "Toad of Toad Hall", proved a huge success, even more notable when we consider the difficulty in producing what is usually considered a children's story for an audience consisting mainly of adults. Contrasting admirably with last year's more complex production of "The Silent Woman", the play combined humorous interest with simplicity. Many of you already know the tale of the high-spirited, but misguided Toad whose obsession for driving lands him in trouble and adventure, despite the helpful advice of his friends Ratty and Mole. And many of you too

will remember the inspired performance of Toad given by Dennis Jordan which was rivalled only by that of John Covell who seemed strangely "at home" in the part of the bad-tempered badger. Mole and Ratty, Toad's faithful and endearing friends, were played by Christopher Stevens and Philip Wilkinson respectively.

SCENES :		CAST :	
PROLOGUE	THE RIVER BANK	MARIGOLD	CAROLE FLETCHER
Act I	THE RIVER BANK	NURSE	MARRION PEARSON
Act II	Scene 1 THE WILD WOOD	MOLE	CHRISTOPHER STEVENS
	Scene 2 MR. BADGER'S HOUSE	WATER RAT	PHILIP WILKINSON
	Scene 3 THE SAME (a few weeks later)	BADGER	JOHN COVELL
	Interval	TOAD	DENNIS JORDAN
Act III	Scene 1 THE COURT HOUSE	ALFRED FRONT-LEGS	GRAHAM LOCKWOOD
	Scene 2 THE GAOL	ALFRED BACK-LEGS	TONY HOSFALL
	Scene 3 THE CANAL BANK	CHIEF WEASEL	PAUL GARDNER
	Interval	CHIEF FERRET	KENNETH CHANNER
		CHIEF STOAT	MARRION PEARSON
Act IV	Scene 1 MR. BADGER'S HOUSE	FIRST FIELD MOUSE	LESLEY BARDSLEY
	Scene 2 THE UNDERGROUND PASSAGE	SECOND FIELD MOUSE	KENNETH CHANNER
	Scene 3 TOAD HALL	POLICEMAN	PHILIP BAXENDALE
		GAOLER	WILLIAM DYSON
		USHER	RONALD DYSON
		JUDGE	ALLAN TINGLE
		PHOEBE	CAROLE FLETCHER
		WASHERWOMAN	MARGARET WOODALL
		BARGEWOMAN	SUSAN SMITH
		WEASELS, FERRETS, STOATS, RABBITS, GEORGINA COOPER	JOHN BEAUMONT
		MARION CROSBY	DENNS BRAITHWAITE
		JACQUELINE FILLINGHAM	
		PATSY HARPER	RICHARD BRUNT
		SUSAN JAMES	NIGEL FERGUSON
		CHRISTINE LAYCOCK	MARK HORBURY
		ANNA NYE	STANLEY TUNNICLIFFE
		ELAINE ROWSBY	STEPHEN WILKINSON
		JUDITH SCOTT	
ICE CREAM WILL BE ON SALE DURING THE INTERVALS			

Probably the most amusing part of the play was the Court Scene in which most of the cast were present to witness the trial of Toad when he was accused of reckless driving. Alan Tingle gave an excellent performance as judge, sentencing the overpowered Toad, perhaps a little too severely, to twenty years imprisonment. Mention too must be made of the excellent solo given by Paul Gardner at the stoats' and weasels' party in Toad Hall. As usual the stage effects, scenery and costumes were of a very high standard. The lighting, too, was very effective, although at one point it was unfortunately non-existent. Other minor mishaps went undetected by the audience such as added conversation by the exuberant Carol Fletcher as Marigold and again by an inspired Badger.

PRODUCER	—	Mr. R. H. WARREN
MUSICAL DIRECTOR	—	Miss P. EVANS
SETS	—	Mr. D. BURNELL
STAGE MANAGERS	Mr. D. L. HOWDLE, Mr. J. C. BAKER	
WARDROBE :		
SUSAN WREN		ELIZABETH ATKINSON
CHRISTINE GRIFFITHS		LARNA CAVANAGH
ANN VAMFLEW		SUSAN MAY
KATHERINE BYRA		DIANE SELL
ANNA NYE		ELIZABETH HAIG
SUSAN DICKINSON		
STAFF		
Miss S. RANKIN		Miss C. PASSOLS'
Miss M. METCALFE		Miss P. TROMANS
Miss A. MARGOLIS		Miss E. ALLIOTT
Miss M. JONES		Mrs. M. ASHLEY
PROPERTY :		
Miss K. WARD		RUTH SALEY
Mr. L. PLUMMER		BERYL GREEN
MAUREEN JONES		ANN HAMILTON
MAKE-UP :		
Mr. C. OWEN		M. BEAUMONT
LESLEY HALL		S. ASH
THERESE GARDNER		M. HOWARTH
JULIA HALLIDAY		M. PREECE
JANET TAYLOR		
STAGE HANDS :		
D. COOP		N. PICKERING
J. FRADGLEY		A. GILBERT
LIGHTS :		
Mr. G. PARKINSON		A. FIRTH
CAROLYN ANDREW		
PROMPTER	—	CAROL BEGG
BUSINESS MANAGER	—	Mr. F. MORLEY

Our grateful thanks go to Mr. Burnell who spent most of his evenings painting the scenery, to Miss Rankin and helpers for the excellent costumes and finally to **Mr. Warren** for his unending patience as producer.



Margaret Preece, L6A Holgate

## 1967 The Vigil



The producers Mr. Jones (left) and Mr. Walsh are shown here.

This year's production of "The Vigil" was an original and adventurous choice for a school play. It presented a challenge to actors and producers alike. The action of the play took place in a small courtroom which could have been in any place at any time. The trial was to determine whether Jesus Christ rose from the dead or whether the body was removed from the tomb by the gardener, played by Marks. Covell, as the prosecutor vented his wrath effectively on the witnesses and the audience but was ably and just as effectively opposed by the defence counsel, played by Tingle. The supporting cast which upheld the high standards set by the principals included Dyson R., Channer, Killoran, Janet Herbert, Wassell, Dyson W., Baxendale, Susan Dickinson, Wheeler, Horsfall, Pat Harper, Micklefield, Margaret Turner, Hryshko, Stevens and last but by no means least Christine Stephens who, as Mary Magdalene, captivated the audience.



Rehearsal with Mr. Walsh. Photo from Stephen Batey. Thank you.

As always our thanks are due to the many people who enabled the play to be staged: Mr. Howdle, Mr. Burnell, Mr. Cooling, Mr. Parkinson, Miss Metcalfe, Mrs. Plummer and Miss Ward. Above all, our congratulations must go to **Mr. Jones and Mr. Walsh** on their producing a highly entertaining and successful play.



Diane Lees, U6A

## 1968 King George and the Dragon



Despite the fact that the School lost its Hall and all the dramatic apparatus within it last October, the Dramatic activities of the School have continued to flourish, mainly due to the efforts and enthusiasm of **Mr. Walsh** (photo). Although there could be no official school play at Christmas, Mr. Walsh produced a 'Mummers' play called "King George and the Dragon" which was intended to be for the entertainment of small children, it proved to be extremely enjoyable for all who took part. The play told the traditional tale of how King George rescued the maiden from the dragon, the cast being as follows:-

The Gardener	Gardner
King George	Wassall
Slasher, a knight	Stevens
King of Egypt	Dyson
Doctor	Head
Sabra, the princess	Joy Midgley
Old Moll	Patsy Harper

The play was performed twice at School, once at Grimethorpe Junior School, once at Chequerfields Infant School in Pontefract and at another Infant School in Pontefract. The proceeds were donated to the National Children's Youth Theatre, and about £25 was collected in all. Our thanks go to Miss Limb for her help with the costumes, Wilkinson, and Edwards for his musical accompaniment.

This year has seen the birth of two new dramatic societies within the School, both engendered by **Mr. Walsh**. The first was the Drama Society which read a selection of plays after school to anyone interested in coming, which included "the Crucible" by Arthur Miller, "All in Good Time" by Noel Coward and others. Mr. Walsh gave an outstanding solo performance in a rendering of "Krapps Last Tape" which he did in full make-up and costume. The other society was the Actor's Studio in which Mr. Walsh used method acting. The response to both these societies, while not being unduly large, has proved to be consistent. As can be seen Mr. Walsh has devoted much of his free time during the past year to the School, and for this we owe him our thanks.