



OCTOBER 2015

CHAIRMAN'S CHAT

I am writing this having just returned from our visit to the Garrick Club in London, which 30 members of the Dorset Theatre-Goers' Club attended. As many of you will know, this year is the 45th anniversary of the founding of the Dorset Theatre-Goers' Club by our President, Graham Jenkins, and it was felt that we should mark such a special occasion with a prestigious event – hence the visit to the Garrick Club.

Entry to the Club is not normally available to the general public, except at the invitation of a member. Luckily, noted actor and Club member Clive Francis (whom some of you will have seen in '84 Charing Cross Road' at Salisbury in February) agreed to host our visit. Regrettably, in the event, his filming schedule in Ireland overran and he was unable to come. However, we were fortunate that fellow actor Gary Raymond stepped into his shoes.

After a delicious lunch, we were treated to an interesting and informative tour of many of the hundreds of paintings of leading actors over the years, which adorn every wall of the Club's beautifully decorated rooms, by Club Guide Frances Hughes. She concentrated on the founding of the Club in 1831 - named after the great 18th century actor David Garrick - at which time the acting profession did not command the celebrity status it does today, and touched on the personal histories of many actors portrayed on the Club's walls, such as Henry Irving and Ellen Terry. She explained that A A Milne, of Winnie the Pooh fame, bequeathed the rights of his creation to the Club, as a result of which the Club's finances were significantly boosted when Disney produced their eponymous film of the character.

We saw portraits of more recent actors such as Donald Sinden on the landing and Laurence Olivier in the bar. And throughout all of this, we had to bear in mind that we were in a private gentlemen's club and respect the ambiance of the premises and the sensibilities of its members. Everyone I spoke to thoroughly enjoyed the visit and felt privileged to have had the opportunity to be allowed inside such a renowned establishment. **CLIVE WILLETTS - CHAIRMAN**

FROM THE OFFICE

The booking forms included in this mail show we have some exciting performances coming up in the New Year. We have no excursion in January due to the limited choice available, but two excellent plays in February – 'Single Spies' at Chichester on 6th and 'Death Trap' on 27th at Salisbury.

A reminder to please book for shows ASAP after receiving booking forms. The club could lose money, due to being obliged to pay for theatre seats (often an estimated number) well in advance.

It's good to recognise the club is 45 years old this year and I would like to thank our founder and president Graham Jenkins for his continued support. I would also like to thank our members for their continued support and offer a very warm welcome to all new members who have recently joined us. **KATY MURRELL – BOOKING SECRETARY**