

Productions in 2001

Pickwick

- A tale of Georgian England

Our show for Autumn 2001, 'Pickwick', by Leslie Bricusse and Cyril Ornadel but based on the Posthumous Papers of the Pickwick Club by Charles Dickens, was presented from 9th to 13th October in the Public Hall, Beccles. Would our eponymous hero be dragged into penury by the machinations of Dodson & Fogg on behalf of their client Mrs Bardell? Would Mr Jingle delude the hapless Rachel and make off with her jewels? (and possibly her virtue!). Could the Pickwickians, staunch bachelors to a man, resist the charms of the Wardle ladies? Would any of this be seen through the clouds generated by the fog machine? Well, the answer to all of this was NO (but the clouds did soon clear!!) and so everything ended happily in the end.

The baton of our Musical Director, Stella Brownsea, and the ever-watchful eye (both on and off stage!) of our Stage Director, Philip Allum managed to keep proceedings just about under control with the result that the company and orchestra delighted our audiences with yet another success for WLOG. In a show with so many principal parts it was always going to be difficult to achieve sufficient chorus numbers, so we were very pleased to welcome several new faces into the Society. Together with the large number of children in the line-up we achieved the largest overall cast for any show - which was fine until they had to be got on and off stage!

We know the children enjoyed themselves, because they wrote to tell us so. Several excellent drawings were produced under the guidance of Jill Allum - typical quotes were that everyone made the children feel very welcome and that it was "really great": we hope to invite several of them back.

No production can ever succeed without a large backstage crew, and thanks must go to Stage Manager Keith Wheadon and Front of House Manager Jerry Garcia, whose teams ensured that things went smoothly both behind and in front of the curtain, and to Pat Langman and the make-up crew for the confident way they handled the changes required to transform cast members for their various roles. Whether they can persuade Pickwick's shaven head to re-grow will remain to be seen though!

