

Great News !!!

We open our 2007 programme with a production of Noel Cowards 'THIS HAPPY BREED'.

Noel Coward writes with his usual wit about the trials & tribulations of an ordinary London family during the period 1919 to 1939, twenty years between the two World Wars.

Unusually for Noel Coward he also writes with warmth & affection about Frank & Ethal Cribson as they battle through the triumphs & tragedies of family life with patient British resolve.

Coward wrote *'This Happy Breed'* in the early years of World War 2, he had grown up in a similar family & he paints a unique and affectionate portrait of life in a fast changing world.

This is a time when newspapers were the main channel for news, local, national or world wide. The radio (or *'wireless'*) only crept into most homes during the 1930's. It brought popular music, plays & comedy shows to a much wider audience.

Evenings were spent gathered round the *'wireless'* & national events such as the abdication of Edward 8th & the Munich crisis of 1938 were brought straight into peoples living rooms.

A filmed version gave David Lean his first official credit as solo director, and was the most successful film of 1944.

It starred John Mills, Celia Johnson, Robert Newton and Stanley Holloway.

The Gallery Players have gathered an excellent cast for *'This Happy Breed'*, it is led by Peter Philips as Frank, with Lynne Mortimer as Ethel.

Other Gallery favourites in the play are Brenda Caddick, Margaret Mudd, Martin Leigh, Paul Stone, Caroline Whitfield, Amy Restall, Mark Hayward, Jenny Leigh, Ruth Hayward & Phil Cory.

Do join us for this witty play written so skilfully by Noel Coward.

It is the only play Coward wrote about ordinary people & it captures beautifully the atmosphere of the time.

We promise an evening of comedy & nostalgia.



This Happy Breed

by Noel Coward

Sir John Mills Theatre --- Tuesday February 6th - Saturday February 10th 2007 @ 7.45pm.
Box Office 01473 211498