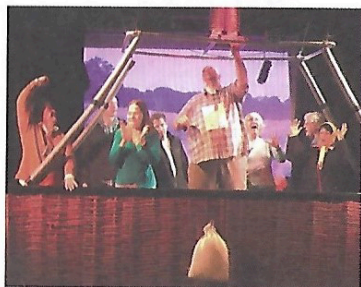


Three-in-one hit for the Players



I was fortunate enough to see the Peaslake Players' production of the three one-act plays, *Up, Up and Way-Hay*, twice, and while there were slight differences between the nights, once again the Players excelled themselves, not least in the quality of the sets. With the sellout audience on both evenings seated at attractively decorated tables in Peaslake Memorial Hall, and the bar proving popular, each set helped you to imagine that you were actually in the scene. Di Ferguson produced an evening of great entertainment. To start,



Panic stations in Virgin Sunset
(photo by Peter Sillick)

Virgin Sunset, written and directed by Brian O'Connell, was an exciting air balloon trip, ascending, travelling along and then descending to disaster. Mike Sutton as Pilot made it all seem real, while the entire cast – Ian Allen, Alessandra Daidone, Mark Taylor, Felix Cuthbert, Tricia Monk, Felix Woods, Geoffrey Bentley and Kim Ferguson – were excellent and frequently had the audience in fits. When the Pilot collapsed and the passengers tried to revive him, I can't help wondering just how bruised Mike's chest was!

There was a short break for the scenery to be changed and then came *Simulation Therapy*, again written and directed by Brian O'Connell, who once more had the audience laughing. Alissa Collingwood was prim and efficient as the Receptionist, Andrew Cross played a very agitated patient, Mr Brown, who was seeking therapy over having his coffee cup removed by a waitress in a café, while Mark Davies was the suave Dr Bezier. A well executed and amusing play. Then came the main interval with fish & chips followed by choc ices. It was good to see cast members helping to clear up after supper, before the final play, *Gosforth's Fête*, by Alan Ayckbourn and directed by Tinx Davies and Ted Horton. Gosforth, excellently played by Ted, was practically tearing his hair out at the sequence of calamitous events happening around him, continually hailing people through his hand-held speaker. This amusing play brought out the talents of the whole cast of Lesley Lane, Caroline Heslop, Tig Shepperd and Katie Kinnes. There were numerous backroom people mentioned in the programme and we shouldn't forget Mark Westbrook, in charge of sound.

I had a very enjoyable couple of evenings but would make one comment. Along with some others, I think the running order would have flowed better if *Gosforth's Fête* had opened the evening, followed by *Simulation Therapy* then *Virgin Sunset*. But I sincerely hope that other local am-dram groups pick up on Brian's two very funny plays.

Marion Taylor-Cotter