

**WIMBORNE**  
DRAMA PRODUCTIONS

Agatha Christie's



# THE HOLLOW

**15 - 17 OCTOBER 2015**

**EVENINGS 7.30pm, £12. SAT MATINEE 2.30pm, £10**

**TIVOLI THEATRE WIMBORNE**

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# PRIDE & PREJUDICE



Dramatised from Jane Austen's classic novel by Helen Jerome

**DEANS COURT**  
**25-28 JUNE 2015**

**WIMBORNE**  
DRAMA PRODUCTIONS

# Welcome

HELLO and welcome to our production of *Pride and Prejudice*. This is the fourth time that Wimborne Drama Productions has performed in the beautiful open air setting of Deans Court. Many thanks to Sir William and Lady Hanham for allowing us back again and to Jonathan Cornish and all the staff here for their help and support. So far we have always been very fortunate with the weather. I hope that we remain so this time and that you are not reading this under the shelter of an umbrella.



Sam Moulton

Although it was not published until some years later, Jane Austen wrote *Pride and Prejudice* (originally entitled *First Impressions*) when she was only 21. Re-reading it in preparation for this production, I was struck again by the humour and the wit, the understanding of human nature and above all the immediacy of the writing. I had to keep reminding myself that all this was written over two hundred years ago.

This freshness, coupled with the hugely entertaining and memorable characters, must in large part account for the fact that *Pride and Prejudice* regularly comes at or very near the top in polls of the nation's favourite novels. Its popularity shows no sign of abating. It has been adapted for television and cinema numerous times and its plot and characters have been mined for countless spin offs, both on page and screen. To mention only a few: *Bridget Jones' Diary*; the Bollywood-style film *Bride and Prejudice*; a murder mystery sequel *Death Comes Pemberley* by PD James; and even the recent novel (soon to be a film) *Pride and Prejudice and Zombies*.

We have remained truer to the original than many of these adaptations. Therefore, I warn you now that there will be no-one

has seen all the girls grow up and is very fond of them but has a special affection for Lydia. **Coping with Regency life:** Very well as I have always coped with life living it to the full and enjoying it all, legally when possible, but hurting nobody in the process.

**VERENA SMITH-MAURER (Mrs Lake)** **Occupation:** Retired Teacher. **Previous productions:** I played a lady of Olivia's court in *Twelfth Night*. I have enjoyed playing small parts in *An Inspector Calls* and *A Man for All Seasons*. **My character:** I see Mrs Lake as a sensible, old fashioned style nurse devoted to the Bennets who, in Regency England, has more responsibility than she would today. **Coping with Regency life:** I would have coped very well with many servants and Beaux. Assuming I was

very rich of course!

**JAN STEVENSON (Lady Lucas)** **Occupation:** Retired. **Previous productions:** I appeared in *The Importance of Being Earnest* and *Lord Arthur Savile's Crime* here at Deans Court. My favourite play was *Sweeney Todd* at the Tiv when I played Mrs Lovett. **My character:** Lady Lucas is a snob. She is trying hard to find a husband for her daughter Charlotte, who is not a renowned beauty. **Coping with Regency life:** To live at that time, one would have to have money and live in a more rural setting. With the industrial revolution, there was a lot of upheaval, people moving into the towns and cities, where the work was. Jane Austen doesn't touch on these things, so we only have the rural view. It is not a period that appeals to me.



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*H signifies honorary*



in 2012 and *Richard III* in 2014 for Bournemouth Shakespeare Players at Christchurch Priory. A favourite role was Alice in *The Vicar of Dibley* for Ferndown Drama. **My character:** Jane is very timid, shy and gentle - nothing like me! She is often described as the prettiest but has no ego or self importance. **Coping with Regency life:** Very well, I would love the clothes and dances! Although I would have probably been someone's chambermaid...

**JOHN SIVEWRIGHT (Mr Collins)**  
**Occupation:** Insurance administrator. **Previous productions:** I played Mr Podgers in *Lord Arthur Savile's Crime* here at Deans Court in 2013. Other favourite roles have been Gerald Croft in *An Inspector Calls* and Louis Harvey in WDP's recent production of *The Ladykillers*. **My character:** Mr Collins is a bit of a pompous ass who probably hasn't had to work too hard for what he has. And he clearly doesn't know how to take 'no' for an answer, as his unsuccessful attempts to woo Elizabeth show. **Coping with Regency life:** No Facebook, no mobile phone, no TV, no video games - how did people survive?? I wouldn't have!!

**MICHAEL J. SMITH (Hill)**  
**Occupation:** Unpaid actor since retiring from gainful employment. **Previous productions:** Here At Deans Court I played Chasuble in *The Importance of Being Earnest* and I appeared as Toby Belch and directed *Twelfth Night*. My favourite role in recent years was The Common Man in *A Man for all Seasons*. **My character:** Septimus Hill has been with the family for a very long time,

emerging in a wet shirt from the lake. I can't imagine that Jane Austen herself would have approved of such a thing anyway.

This particular version of the novel was adapted by Helen Jerome and first performed in the West End in 1936 with Celia Johnson as Elizabeth Bennet. In reducing a 350 page novel, with numerous settings and dozens of characters, to a manageable evening in the theatre, I believe this version does an excellent job. Some of the plot has been slightly telescoped, and one or two minor characters cut (you may never actually meet Kitty), but everything that I believe makes the story such an enjoyable one is still very much there. This production, I hope, has all the spirit and flavour of the original novel.



Jane Austen

It is a truth universally acknowledged (I had to get that in somewhere) that a dramatic production is a team effort. I have been enormously lucky to be surrounded by so many talented, creative and dedicated people, both on and behind the stage. It has been a hugely enjoyable experience directing this play and my thanks go to all of those involved in the production in every capacity for making it such fun. We are all particularly grateful to Chrissie Neal for stepping in at extremely short notice to take on the role of Mrs Bennet, due to the sudden illness of a member of the cast. Until very recently Chrissie thought all she had to worry about in this production were the props!

It is with great pride and pleasure (not prejudice) that we present this production to you this evening. If *Pride and Prejudice* is one of your favourite novels, I very much hope we do it justice.

By the way, the novel that sometimes comes ahead of this one in the polls is *Lord of the Rings*. Now *there's* an idea for next year!

SAM MOULTON - DIRECTOR

# The Economics of Pride and Prejudice:

## Or why a single man with a fortune of £4,000 per year is a desirable husband

WHEN Mrs Bennet finds out that their new neighbour Mr Bingley is a single man of large fortune “with four or five thousand a year,” she exclaims to her husband: “What a fine thing for our girls!”

But what do these numbers mean in today’s terms?

The average annual income for a labourer or farmer in 1800 was about £20 (or about £1,600 in today’s money).

Male servants could earn from £20 to £60 a year and a female servant from £5 to £15 per year.

From his estate at Longbourn, Mr Bennet derives a yearly income, to support him, his wife and five daughters, of £2,000.

It is a respectable income for a gentleman, but certainly not comparable to Mr Bingley’s £5,000 or Mr Darcy’s £10,000 a year.

The Bennet family is comfortably off, as long as Mr Bennet is alive. However,



Early 19th century farm workers

**My character:** Spoilt, silly, young, fun and a fan of military men. **Coping with Regency life:** Badly, they don’t even have toothpaste!

**CHRISSIE NEAL (Mrs Bennet)**

**Occupation:** Fundraising Manager. **Previous productions:** I was Front of House Manager on all of our previous productions at Deans Court, and was hoping to take a back seat this time!! My favourite roles have been Mrs Danvers in *Rebecca* and Miss Clairee in *Steel Magnolias* both at the Tivoli. **My character:** Excitable, drama queen, snob, social climber, can be foolish and uncouth, but is very single-minded in trying to find husbands for her daughters. **Coping with Regency life:** Would be lovely to have no mobile phones and for people to talk to each other again.

**TRACEY NICHOLLS (Elizabeth Bennet)**

**Occupation:** Operations Manager. **Previous productions:** For WDP here at Deans Court I played Gwendolen in *The Importance of Being Earnest* and Olivia in *Twelfth Night*. Other favourite plays have been *Steel Magnolias*, *An Inspector Calls* and *Present Laughter*. My dream came true though when I directed *A Man For All Seasons* in 2014. **My character:** lively, playful, charming, witty and intelligent. She’s confident, warm-hearted, occasionally hot-headed and, dare I say it, prone to prejudice! **Coping with Regency life:** Not very well...I play, sing and embroider very ill indeed! But I would have enjoyed the dancing and the beautiful clothes and manners. I have found

myself starting to curtsy at work, I get very odd looks...

**GARY PAINE (Mr Bennet)**

**Occupation:** Sales Representative. **Previous productions:** This is my first time in the open air. I have enjoyed being involved with *Sleuth*, *Deathtrap* and *The Mating Game* all with The Broadstone Players. **My character:** Driven by his wife’s overwrought personality to take a back seat as a father; resigned and often quietly sarcastic to Mrs B., but genuinely loving towards his family. **Coping with Regency life:** Simple: I would have invested in the printing industry - that is where the money was to be made.

**COLIN PILE (Mr Bingley)**

**Occupation:** Computer Engineer. **Previous productions:** I have been involved in several open air productions, but I have not had any dialogue until now! One of my favourite serious roles was in *Pack of Lies* for WDP at the Tivoli. I enjoyed, every night, giving the narrative monologues to the audience. **My character:** He is a friendly, good-tempered person, always ready to think the best of everyone but easily swayed by the opinions or suggestions of others. **Coping with Regency life:** As my job would not have been invented, I would probably have been a farm worker or maybe even a carpenter. Very physical labour with long hours but I do like the early morning on a summer’s day.

**KIMBERLEY SCOTT (Jane Bennet)**

**Occupation:** Legal Secretary. **Previous productions:** I appeared in *Merry Wives of Windsor*

designed the sets for all our previous open air productions at Deans Court. As for acting, my favourite roles (indoors!) were Mrs Fraser in *Stepping Out* and one of the Miss Pockets in *Great Expectations*. **My character:** mad-mad-mad-mad-mad-mad-mad Irish maid. **Coping with Regency life:** Not well. Boredom would be the worst bit coupled with wearing those awful under-the-bust dresses (whoever thought that one up must have hated women) and the parting-in-the-middle hairstyle (probably by the same fashion designer). The men looked okay though.

**MARK ELLEN (Colonel Fitzwilliam)** **Occupation:** I want to be a boat restorer! **Previous productions:** I played Pinch in *Comedy Of Errors* at Walford Mill in 2001 during a thunder storm which involved running around with no clothes on, trying to remember lines while pursued by ladies trying not to remember what was in front of them! Playing Henry II in *The Lion In Winter* for Wimborne Drama Productions at The Tivoli in 2003 was perhaps my most challenging and rewarding role. **My character:** Colonel Fitzwilliam is still trying to understand modern life. He knows how to march but does not know when he's put his foot in it. **Coping with Regency life:** My time in Regency England would have been short lived as I would have escaped all that snobbery nonsense and either found my way or been shipped to the colonies.

**JUDY GARRETT (Mrs Gardiner)** **Occupation:** Semi retired; work part time for a Dorset Care

**Organisation. Previous productions:** I played Maria in *Twelfth Night* at Deans Court in 2012. My favourite roles have been Teresa in *Memory of Water*, Sarah in *Bolt from the Blue* and Ruth in *Entertaining Angels*, all for Broadstone Players, and Constanza in *Enchanted April* for WDP. **My character:** Mrs G is well presented and educated; caring, generous, a good listener whose discretion and counsel is reliable; very attached to her nieces. **Coping with Regency life:** Depending on my social standing, I think I would have enjoyed many aspects of the Regency period – the literature, the art, the architecture and of course the high fashion. However there was also much social unrest which I would have found hard to tolerate.

**CALUM HEARNE (Captain Denny)** **Occupation:** Admin assistant. **Previous productions:** My favourite roles were Pop in a school production of *We Will Rock You* and Rowland Maule in *Present Laughter* for WDP. **My character:** Captain of his regiment, a gentlemen, knows how to behave around women and is a respected member of the community. **Coping with Regency life:** I think I would cope well in regency England as I can adapt to different lifestyles.

**CLAIRE HUTTON (Lydia Bennet)** **Occupation:** theatre usher and admin assistant. **Previous productions:** I have appeared in *Spider's Web*, *Present Laughter* and *A Man For All Seasons* for WDP at the Tivoli. My favourite part was Tellus in *Endymion* at uni. I have also been an extra in an ITV ident!



*Chatsworth House and Park : Jane Austen's inspiration for Pemberley*

after his death, and with no son, Mr Bennet's house and estate, and with it the £2,000 annual income, would be inherited by his cousin Mr Collins. Mrs Bennet would have only her £5,000 dowry, from which she could expect to earn no more than £200 a year in interest. No wonder she becomes anxious every time she thinks of her unmarried daughters and how they, and she, would survive her husband's death.

Mr Darcy's annual income of £10,000 would be the equivalent of more than £800,000 per year in today's money, allowing for inflation – a very significant amount, but not nearly enough to run a modern incarnation of Pemberley. However, costs such as the employment of servants, and all the other trappings of aristocracy, were much cheaper relative to income in 1800. In terms of spending power, Darcy would have been able to buy more with what he had.

So if you take into account changes in gross domestic product per capita over the past 200 years, as well as the far greater gap between rich and poor that existed in the early 19th century, Mr Darcy's income works out at around £12 million per year today.

Now that would make him a very desirable husband indeed for one of the Bennet girls!

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## The Cast in order of appearance

Hill	MICHAEL J. SMITH
Mr Bennet	GARY PAINE
Mrs Bennet	CHRISSIE NEAL
Lady Lucas	JAN STEVENSON
Charlotte Lucas	KRISTY DIXON
Jane Bennet	KIMBERLEY SCOTT
Lydia Bennet	CLAIRE HUTTON
Mary Bennet	BETHANY BARFOOT
Elizabeth Bennet	TRACEY NICHOLLS
Mr Darcy	ROB CORDING
Mr Bingley	COLIN PILE
Mr Collins	JOHN SIVEWRIGHT
Captain Denny	CALUM HEARNE
Mr Wickham	DAVID BEDDARD
Miss Bingley	SABINA EBERLE
Maggie	JACKSON ELLEN
Mrs Gardiner	JUDY GARRETT
Lady Catherine de Bourgh	CAROLINE BURR
Colonel Fitzwilliam	MARK ELLEN
Mrs Lake	VERENA SMITH-MAURER

Produced by Wimborne Drama Productions  
at Deans Court, Wimborne, 25-28 June 2015

## Conversation

**CAROLINE BURR (Lady Catherine de Bourgh)**  
**Occupation:** Lecturer. **Previous productions:** Amongst my favourites is Beverley in *Abigail's Party*, with Roundabout Theatre Company in Ferndown. **My character:** Lady Catherine de Bourgh is very wealthy, haughty, domineering, condescending and pompous. She is very keen on observing the strict rules of Regency society. **Coping with Regency life:** Lady Catherine has many privileges due to her wealth, but I think the early 1800s would have been very restrictive and boring for women like her. I don't think I would have liked having so little to do - just music, playing cards and drinking tea!

### ROB CORDING (Mr Darcy)

**Occupation:** Team Leader. **Previous productions:** I have been involved in all of WDP's previous open air productions at Deans Court including our last outing *Lord Arthur Savile's Crime* in 2013 when I played Arthur. Other favourites include Simon Bliss in *Hay Fever* and Pip in *Great Expectations*. **My character:** Everyone has their own image of Darcy so describing him may do him an injustice. As he says himself, he lacks the talent for conversing easily with strangers. **Coping with Regency life:** I think I would love Regency England - except the sideburns (I'm not a fan!)

**KRISTY DIXON (Charlotte Lucas)**  
**Occupation:** Undercover Canadian

Spy - oh wait - I shouldn't have told you that. **Previous productions:** In the open air I appeared in Richard III with Bournemouth Shakespeare Players. Indoors I have played Nurse Kelly in *Harvey*, Aileen Wheeler in *Death in High Heels* (both Ferndown Drama), and Annelle in *Steel Magnolias* with Regina Little Theatre, Canada. **My character:** Charlotte is the common sense and plain friend of Elizabeth. She is very straight in understanding the expectations of society and the order in which things are expected to go in terms of marriage and the role of women. Charlotte is seen as quite sensible and calm - certainly attributes I could learn from! **Coping with Regency life:** I'd love to have a go living in Regency England after all I love a good bonnet. I think I would function quite well - they had iPhones back then, right?!?

### SABINA EBERLE (Miss Bingley)

**Occupation:** Public Relations. **Previous productions:** I have done a few festivals and street theatre and played the witch in a Cornish play *Piggin*. **My character:** Uncompromising, self-centred, traditional, snobbish and loves a gossip. She takes great pleasure in being revered and admired. **Coping with Regency life:** If I could sing and play instruments all day I would be incredibly happy!

### JACKSON ELLEN (Maggie)

**Occupation:** psychotherapist (poncy name for a counsellor). **Previous productions:** I have

# Jane Austen

Born in Steventon, Hampshire on 16 December 1775, the seventh of eight children of George Austen, a clergyman, and his wife Cassandra. She has six brothers and one sister, Cassandra.

At 7 years old, Jane catches typhus and almost dies. Jane and her sister are initially educated at boarding school, but when their father can no longer afford the fees, they are taught at home by their parents.

Jane inherits a love of books from her father and begins to write her own stories in her early teens. She also plays the piano and becomes an accomplished dancer.

In 1801 the family moves to Bath. After the death of Jane's father in 1805, the family struggles financially, and Jane, Cassandra and their mother move several times, living with various relatives before eventually settling in Chawton, near Steventon.

Jane never marries, but she does accept a marriage proposal from the wealthy brother of a close friend. She changes her mind when she realises she does not love him.

Of the four novels published during her lifetime, none bears her name. *Sense and Sensibility* bears the byline "By a Lady" and *Pride and Prejudice* simply states that it is by "The Author of *Sense and Sensibility*". *Mansfield Park* and *Emma* are also published anonymously.

In 1816, Jane begins to suffer from ill-health, probably due to Addison's disease (a rare disorder in which the adrenal glands do not produce sufficient steroid hormones.) She travels to Winchester to receive treatment, and dies there on 18 July 1817 aged 41. Two more novels, *Persuasion* and *Northanger Abbey*, are published posthumously and a final novel is left incomplete. She is buried at Winchester Cathedral.

# The Cast in

## BETHANY BARFOOT

(Mary Bennet)

**Occupation:** Student. **Previous productions:** I have never performed in the open air, but I am looking forward to the experience. The favourite role I've played was Mungojerrie in a school production of *Cats*. **Describe your *Pride & Prejudice* character:** I play Mary Bennet, she is the third sister in the Bennet family. Mary is quite a plain-looking character compared to her sisters. She is sensible and rather bookish. **How would you cope living in Regency England?** The prospect of living in regency England sounds quite intriguing. I like the custom of courting and everything that goes with it, the fashion, the etiquette and the dancing!

## DAVID BEDDARD

(Mr Wickham)

**Occupation:** Customer Support Advisor. **Previous productions:** My favourite roles have been Lord Arthur Savile in *Lord Arthur Savile's Crime* with Poole & Parkstone Players, and Eric Birling in *An Inspector Calls* with Wimborne Drama Productions. **My character:** Wickham is all things to all women. He wants your money and your daughters. Charming and wily, he'll exploit your shame and discretion. **Coping with Regency life:** I'd never find a respectable wife due to my poor posture and would bankrupt myself buying clothes.

# Scene Synopsis

## Act I

Scene 1 One afternoon at Longbourne, Hertfordshire, the Bennets' home

Scene 2 The same, an evening some weeks later

Scene 3 The same, a morning one week later

## INTERVAL

## Act II

Scene 1 Aunt Gardiner's home in Cheapside, London, a month later

Scene 2 Rosings in Kent, the home of Lady Catherine de Bourgh

Scene 3 Longbourne, one week later

Scene 4 The same, two weeks later

# The Production Team

Director	SAM MOULTON
Assistant Director & Continuity	BARRY BAYNTON
Set Construction	CHRIS DURHAM assisted by members of the company
Set Dressing & Furnishings	JACKSON ELLEN
Sound and Lighting	PHYLLIS SPENCER
	DAVID PILE
	COLIN PILE
Properties	RICHARD NEAL
	CHRISSIE NEAL
Costume Design & Production	BSP WARDROBE
Costume Supervisor	LIZZIE PETERS
Front of House Management	PAUL DODMAN

## Production Acknowledgements

Sound and electrical equipment supplied by Pete Alcock's Presentation Services

We also acknowledge the help and support of: Daisy Graphic, Deans Court Estate, Dumpton School, Gullivers Bookshop, Dave of London Bullion, Royal British Legion Wimborne, Tivoli Theatre



From left to right, top: Gary Paine, Michael J. Smith, John Sivewright, Calum Hearne, Bethany Barfoot, Chrissie Neal and Jan Stevenson.  
Middle: Verena Smith-Maurer, Mark Ellen, Tracey Nicholls, Claire Hutton, Kimberley Scott, Judy Garrett and Rob Cording.  
Bottom: Colin Pile, Caroline Burr, Kristy Dixon, David Beddard, Jackson Ellen and Sabina Eberle