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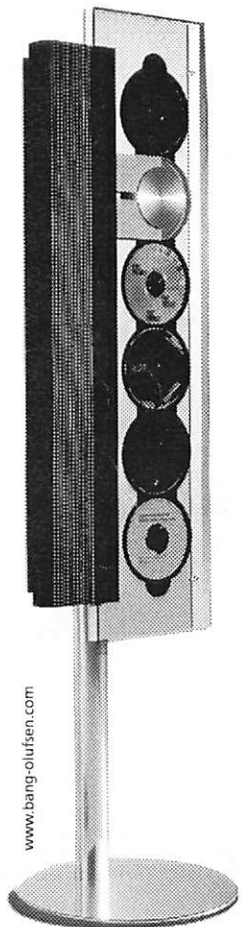
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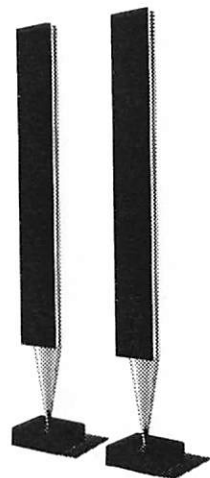


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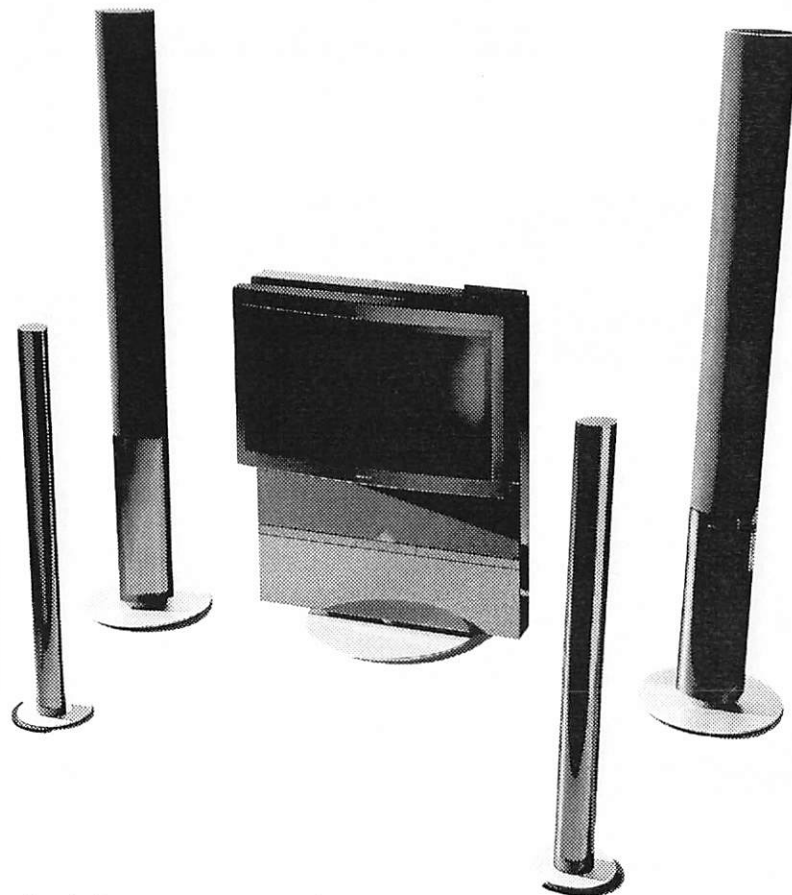


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Carolyn Hewitt (*Company Stage Manager*)
Carolyn joined Wimborne Drama over 23 years ago when she took the part of Susie in *The Amorous Prawn*. During those years she has been involved in most aspects of production and was stage manager for our last play, *No Room For Love*. Onstage she has taken numerous diverse parts, most recently Daphne in *A Voyage Round My Father*, Johanna in *Sweeney Todd*, Sybil Merton in *Blithe Spirit* and Connie in *Habeas Corpus*.

Jan Stevenson (*ASM*)
Jan joined Wimborne drama in 1979 and her first appearances were as the bumbling maid in *George and Margaret* and Ruth in *Blithe Spirit*. Since then she has appeared in many plays including *Dear Octopus*, *Quite Weekend*, *Dangerous Corner*, *Tomb With a View*, *Bedroom Farce*, *One For The Road*, *Sweeney Todd*, *Lord Arthur Savile's Crime*, our 1999 revival of *Blithe Spirit*, and *The Crucible*. She has worked backstage on many more productions.

Ann Pond (*ASM*)
Ann has theatrical experience both backstage, front of house and as an actress. She has been stage manager, as well as made sound effects on various productions. Her costume credits include *And So To Bed*, *Forty Years On*, *The Roses of Eyam* and, for Swan Theatre, *Twelfth Night*. Onstage Ann has taken the roles of Muriel in *Woman in Mind*, Elizabeth in *A Voyage Round My Father*, Elvira in *Blithe Spirit* and Elizabeth Proctor in *The Crucible*.

New members are always welcome to join Wimborne Drama. If you are keen to be involved in any aspect of theatre, please contact our **Secretary Carolyn Hewitt** on 01202 245376

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presents

The Madness of George III

by Alan Bennett

Directed by Richard Neal

14th - 17th February 2001

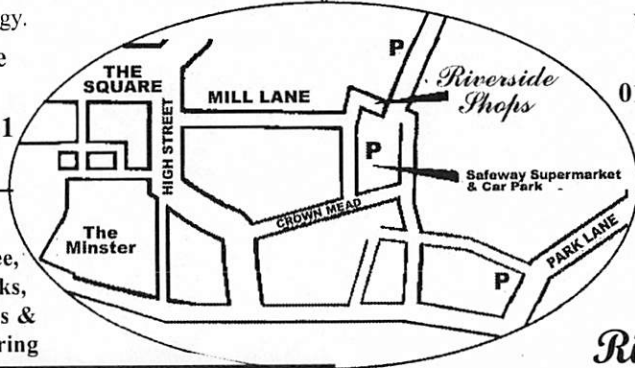
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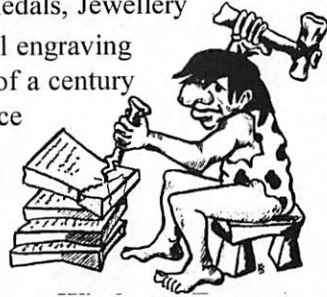
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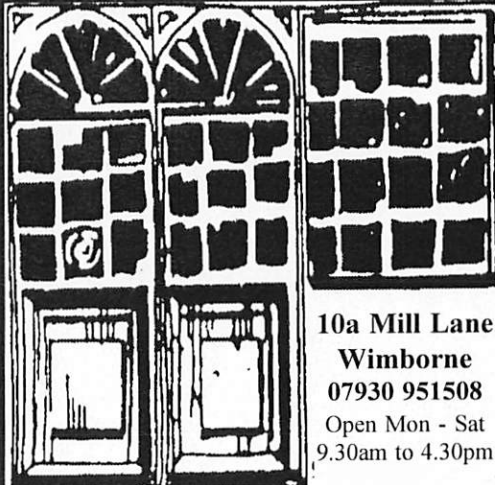
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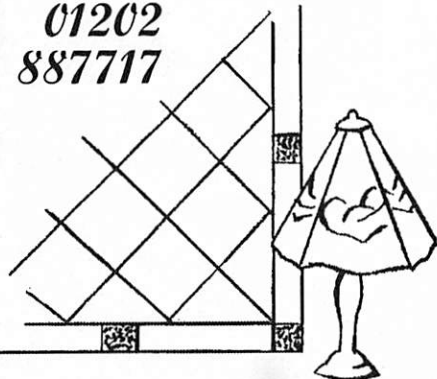
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Rebecca Dudley-Smith

In the past Becky has appeared in several operas including *The Magic Flute* and *Dido & Aeneas* as well as writing the music for an adaptation of *Cinderella*. On stage at the Tivoli she has appeared in *Run For Your Wife*, *Woman in Mind*, *The Roses of Eyam* and *No Room For Love*, and in 1997 she directed *The Interview* by JC van Itallie which won awards at both the Ferndown and New Forest drama festivals. Becky has played Juliet in *Measure for Measure*, and Viola in *Twelfth Night*.

Tony Brown Colin Clarke Mel Gudger



Tony, Colin and Mel are all members of the Wimborne Militia, formed 'to offer accompaniment and protection to The Worshipful Mayor in the face of any threat or rebellion'. They also re-enact battles from the Civil War and can be seen most Saturdays in a field near here 'knocking lumps out of each other'. We have previously called upon Colin and Mel to add authenticity to scenes in *The Crucible*.

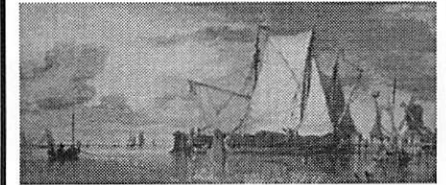
Richard Neal (Director)

Richard directed *Woman in Mind* in 1996 and *A Voyage Round My Father* in 1997. His acting credits include Malcolm in *Bedroom Farce*, Dennis in *One for the Road*, Charles II in *And So To Bed*, John Smith in *Run For Your Wife*, Tempest in *Forty Years On*, Dan in *An Evening With Gary Lineker*, Mompesson in *The Roses of Eyam*, Kevin in *Fur Coat and No Knickers* and Canon Throbbing in *Habeas Corpus*.

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Margaret Pope

(Nicholson/Dr Macalpine)

Margaret trained at the Hampshire School of Music and Drama under the late Irene Crockin. Her roles have included Mrs Reed in *Jane Eyre*, Dora Randolph in *Dear Octopus*, Helen Kroger in *Pack of Lies*, Miss Mitchum-Brown in *The Secret Tent*, Miss Smythe in *Move Over Mrs Markham*, Dora Tomb in *Tomb With a View*, Mrs Bell in *Death and the Maiden*, Miss Mockridge in *Dangerous Corner*, Audrey in *Ten Times Table*, Flora van Huysen in *The Matchmaker*, Miss Nisbett in *Forty Years On*, Edith in *Fur Coat and No Knickers* and Lady Rumpers in *Habeas Corpus*.



Christian Napier (Footman)

Christian has lived in Wimborne all his life. Since appearing as Pharaoh in a first school production of *Joseph* he has been hooked on drama. Past productions include *Jerusalem Joy* and *The Evacuees* at Allenbourn School, and he played the lead in a production of *Joseph* for his church and has appeared in, written, and directed many Christian sketches. For Wimborne Drama Christian has appeared in *Sweeney Todd*, *The Roses of Eyam* and as Hamish in *Fur Coat and No Knickers*.



Clare Downs

Clare started off studying ballet at Bristol prior to being asked to take part in various ballet, tap, as well as modern dance performances at Bristol's Victoria Rooms. Since moving to Dorset six years ago she helped with the design and made the costumes for a production of *Lysistrata* for Bournemouth Youth Theatre and has assisted backstage with several other productions. Clare appeared as Felicity in *Habeas Corpus* and Michelle in *No Room For Love* last year.

The King and Alan Bennett

Alan Bennett first discovered his fascination for George III whilst studying in the sixth form at Leeds Modern School. He answered a question on the king in his scholarship paper for Cambridge University. Although he failed to meet the required grade, he eventually (after enduring a spell of National Service) entered Exeter University to read history and studied George III as part of his degree.

In the 1980s Bennett rediscovered his affection for George III when reading some of the medical history connected with the time. *The Royal Malady* by Charles Chenevix Trench catalogues the King's illness and the so-called Regency Crisis. *George III and the Mad Business* by Richard Hunter and Ida Macalpine suggests that the King's illness was physical, not mental. They proposed that he was suffering from porphyria: a physical illness that affects the nervous system, a symptom of which is the discolouration of the urine. The disease is periodic, unpredictable and hereditary. From a dramatist's point of view it is more useful if the King's malady was of a 'toxic condition, traceable to a metabolic disturbance rather than due to schizophrenia or manic depression'.

It was a joke told by George III during his illness that made Alan Bennett think of writing a play about him.

One of the King's equerries, Colonel Manners, bringing him his dinner one day, discovered the King under the sofa. A Jeeves before his time, Manners imperturbably laid a place for His Majesty on the carpet and put down the plate. He was retiring discreetly when the King, still under the sofa, said, 'That was very good ... Manners'.

The pun was thought to signal a further stage in the King's recovery. The anecdote does not make its way into the stage play, but it did make Bennett think that George



III might be fun to write about.

Bennett was concerned not to make the play too heavily political in content. Any account of politics would allude to parallels in the contemporary society of the audience. He was sure he did not want a political text that would overshadow the madness of George III. The politics were necessary, 'amusing, intriguing, but incidental'. The House of Commons was an area where a man might make a name for himself, but where most members were just concerned to 'line their pockets'.

One factor that Bennett does need his audience to understand, however, is the set up of the government and its relationship with the monarch in 1788. The King would have taken control of the working of the nation, choosing as his chief minister a politician who could summon enough support in the House of Commons to give him a majority. This contrasts sharply with the government of today: the majority in the Commons determines the choice of Prime Minister. With this understanding, it is easy to see why George III's illness threatened the survival of the government.

The reign of George III 1760-1820

George III was born on 4th June 1738 in London, the eldest son of Frederick, Prince of Wales, and Princess Augusta of



Saxe-Gotha. He became heir to the throne on the death of his father in 1751, succeeding his grandfather, George II, in 1760. He was the third Hanoverian monarch and the first one to be born in England and to use English as his first language.

Although widely remembered for losing the American colonies, George's direct involvement in the American issue was not great. He opposed their bid for independence to the end, but he did not develop the policies (such as the Stamp Act of 1765 and the Townshend duties of 1767 on tea, paper and other products) which led to war in 1775-76 and which had the support of Parliament. These policies were introduced to raise money to maintain army garrisons, to administer the vast expansion of territory brought under the British Crown in America, and to pay for a series of wars with France and Spain in North America.



David Pile
(Willis)

David has been involved in local theatre for almost fifty years, where he has acted in dramas, appeared in musicals, as well as taking parts in several pantomimes: Widow Twanky in *Alladin*, St Briche in *The Merry Widow*, Captain Orton in *The King and I*, and Professor Hinzel in *White Horse Inn*. Most recently, quite apart from continuing his involvement in musicals, he has appeared for Wimborne Drama as George Viccars in *The Roses of Eyam* and Giles Corey in *The Crucible*, and for Swan Theatre as Feste in *Twelfth Night*.



Howard Lovejoy
(Sir Boothby)

Howard joined Wimborne Drama in the late 1980s, and after a few small parts was pleased to receive a notice for his role as the butler in *Charley's Aunt*. Since then he has enjoyed portraying various characters including Sir George Saville in *The Roses of Eyam* and Francis Nurse in *The Crucible*, and even managed to break into song in *The Owl and the Pussycat Went to See...* Backstage he has added sound and music to productions.



Jean Dishington
(Mrs Armistead)

Jean has worked in theatre-in-education and performed with many drama and musical theatre societies. Her favourite roles include Eliza Dolittle in *Pygmalion*, the stepdaughter in *Six Characters in Search of an Author*, Mary Warren in *The Crucible* and Laurey in *Oklahoma*. For Wimborne Drama she has played Nellie in *Lord Arthur Saville's Crime*, Catherine Mompesson in *The Roses of Eyam* and Mary Warren in *The Crucible*.

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Simon Jackson
(Baker)

Simon has been involved with various theatre groups in both Yorkshire and Dorset, with musicals, pantomime and drama as well as Shakespeare's *Much Ado About Nothing*, *The Merry Wives of Windsor* and *Twelfth Night*. Recent appearances at the Tivoli have included Gerald in *Woman in Mind*, Ian in *An Evening With Gary Lineker*, Harry in *Fur Coat and No Knickers*, and Dr Garfield in *No Room For Love*.



Joe Brooks
(Warren)

Joe has been involved with Wimborne Drama for over forty years, and is a seasoned actor, director and stage manager. In 1996 he directed and very much enjoyed *Run For Your Wife* and loved playing the title role in *A Voyage Round My Father*. Joe took a part in two recent festival plays, Pinter's *A Kind of Alaska* and Miller's *Elegy for a Lady*. More recently he has played the part of Judge Turpin in *Sweeney Todd*, Marshall Howe in *The Roses of Eyam*, The Dean of Paddington in *Lord Arthur Savile's Crime* and Judge Hathorn in *The Crucible*.



Chris Brown
(Pepys)

Chris has been involved in drama for most of his life, taking part in every school production possible with roles such as A Holly Tree and Joseph! In adult life he finds himself directing large scale Civil War re-enactments of the Sealed Knot Society in all parts of the nation. His film work includes *The World Turned Upside Down* and *Sedgemoor 1685*. Onstage Chris has appeared in *The Roses of Eyam*, *Uneasy Lies the Head* and *The Crucible*. He has also become well known for his role as Town Mayor's Serjant.

The declaration of American independence on 4th July 1776, and the surrender by British forces that followed in 1782, could have threatened the Hanoverian throne. However, George's strong defence of what he saw as the national interest and the prospect of long war with revolutionary France made him, if anything, more popular than before. The establishment of new trade routes in Europe also brought a period of welcome prosperity to England.

George's accession in 1760 marked a significant change in royal finances. Since 1697, the monarch had received an annual grant of £700,000 from Parliament as a contribution to the Civil List. In 1760, it was decided that the whole cost of the Civil List should be provided by Parliament in return for the surrender of the hereditary revenues by the King for the duration of his reign. This arrangement still applies today.

The first 25 years of George's reign were politically very unstable. The King was accused by some critics, particularly the Whigs, of attempting to reassert royal authority in an unconstitutional manner. In fact, George took a conventional view of the constitution and the powers left to the Crown after the conflicts between Crown and Parliament in the 17th century. He was also severely criticised for his friendship with his former tutor John Stuart, 3rd Earl of Bute, whom George appointed Prime Minister in 1762. From the first, Bute, as a Scotsman, was widely disliked in England. He aroused further hostility by signing the Treaty of Paris (February 1763), which made peace with France but was extremely unpopular in England. After imposing a hated cider tax and becoming involved in the controversial elevation of Henry Fox (father of Charles James Fox) to the peerage, Bute resigned (April 1763). Nevertheless, he maintained his influence with George III until the new prime

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minister, George Grenville, made the king promise (May 1765) that he would neither employ Bute in office nor seek his counsel.

Although he was careful not to exceed his powers, George's limited ability and lack of subtlety in dealing with the shifting alliances within the Tory and Whig political groupings in Parliament meant that he found it difficult in those early years to bring together ministries that could enjoy the support of the House of Commons. His problem was solved first by the long-lasting ministry of Lord North (1770-82) and then, from 1783, by Pitt the Younger, whose first ministry lasted until 1801.

Though they did not always see eye to eye, George III and Pitt had a certain respect for one another and their relationship worked well. To the King's obvious pleasure, Pitt - honest and conscientious, if unprepossessing -



Charles James Fox



Colin Pile
(Papandiek)

Colin has appeared with several theatre groups in and around Dorset specialising in musicals, pantomime and dance. Among the many roles he has undertaken are Will Parker in *Oklahoma*, The Artful Dodger in *Oliver* and Dandini in *Cinderella*. He has appeared in numerous concerts as flautist as well as being an accomplished dancer, taking parts in *Eugene Onegin* as well as *Hey There New York* at The Tivoli Theatre. He provided lighting and music for Swan Theatre's *Twelfth Night*. Papandiek is Colin's first role for Wimborne Drama.



Amanda Brown
(Fortnum)

Amanda trained within the industry in the early 1990s when she did professional work in stage and space design both in London and on the Continent. Since moving back to Dorset she has had extensive experience in set design with her innovative designs for Wimborne Drama's *Sweeney Todd* and *The Roses of Eyam*, and Swan Theatre's *Twelfth Night*. Onstage Amanda has taken parts in several plays, including Bedlam in *The Roses of Eyam* and Valentine in *Twelfth Night*.



Bob Hucklesby
(Braun)

Bob last appeared at the Tivoli as Mr Purdue in Wimborne Drama's production of Alan Bennett's *Habeas Corpus* (February 2000). He has been a member of St Luke's Players in Bournemouth for the past ten years playing supporting roles in productions such as *Run For Your Wife* and *The Anniversary*.

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Paul Hewitt
(Fitzroy)

Paul is another long standing member of Wimborne Drama, but in recent years his time has mostly been spent ensuring, through his role as Treasurer, that the club's finances are in sound order. His last acting appearance was as Richard Sydall in *The Roses of Eyam*. He has previously directed Arthur Miller's *Elegy for a Lady*, which was entered in local drama festivals, and provided musical accompaniment to *The Owl and The Pussycat Went to See*.



James Carrington
(Greville)

James is a 17-year-old student currently studying for a BTEC National Diploma in Performing Arts at Bournemouth & Poole College. His interest in drama started an early age when he gained valuable experience modelling. He has been active in school drama clubs and choirs and for four years was a student of the Stage Coach School of Acting and Modelling whilst he was still at school. James has performed in a variety of productions including *Heavy Metal Macbeth*, an adaptation of the original by Poole High School, *The Crucible*, *Our Day Out*, *Stags and Hens*, and *The Caucasian Chalk Circle*.



Penny Whipp
(Lady Pembroke)

Penny began her drama at the tender age of seven when she was a fairy in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Since then she has performed at several music festivals and on stage in *The Deep Blue Sea*, Micky in *The [female] Odd Couple*, Cicely in *84, Charing Cross Road*, and Ruth in *Living Together*. For Wimborne Drama she has appeared as Lady Julia in *Lord Arthur Savile's Crime* and Ann Frith in *The Roses of Eyam*. Penny made her debut as director in 1998 with *Sweeney Todd*.

succeeded in reducing the national debt and in keeping at bay the 'odious' Charles James Fox, who was perceived as a libertine, gambler, fat, louche opportunist and a crony of the Prince of Wales from whom he had taken at least two discarded mistresses (including Mrs Armistead).

George III was a good family man (there were 15 children) and devoted to his wife, Charlotte of Mecklenburg-Strelitz, for whom he bought the Queen's House (later enlarged to become Buckingham Palace). However, his sons disappointed him. The Prince of Wales, who associated politically with Fox's Whigs and socially with Fox's gaming friends, was a big worry to him. In contrast to George III's rather straitlaced court, the Prince's circle was lively and dissolute. The Prince was a notorious philanderer, a heavy

gambler and drinker, and a shameful squanderer of public money. He married, in secret, a beautiful young widow, Mrs Maria Fitzherbert. However, as the Prince had not sought the permission of his father, and Mrs Fitzherbert was a Roman Catholic, the marriage was illegal under the Royal Marriages Act and the Act of Settlement.

After serious bouts of illness in 1788-89 and again in 1801, George III became permanently deranged in 1810. He was mentally unfit to rule in the last decade of his reign; the Prince of Wales (later George IV) acted as Prince Regent from 1811. In his last years, physical as well as mental powers deserted him and he became blind. He died at Windsor Castle on 29th January 1820, after a reign of almost 60 years - the second longest in British history.

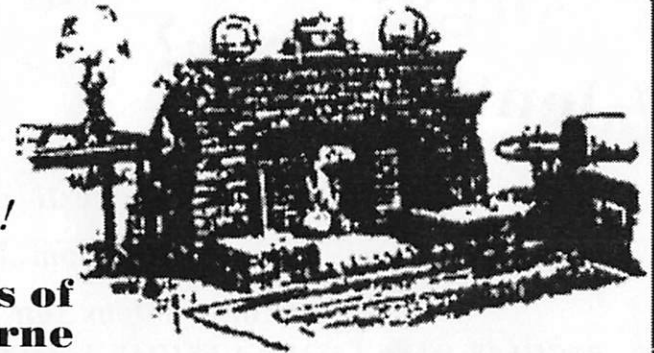


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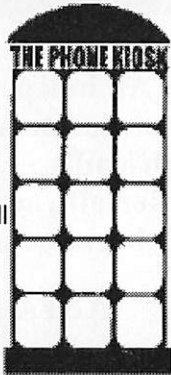
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Alex Compiani (Dundas)

The Madness of George III marks Alex's first stage appearance, although this should hold no fears for him as he lists his other hobbies as bungee jumping, parachuting, scuba diving, sword fighting and free climbing! Alex is also an active member of the Wimborne Militia.



Dave Williams (Fox)

After an initial introduction to Amdram in Berkshire in the early 1970s, Dave had a run of four pantomime seasons at Exeter. A period in Gibraltar saw him in various productions including Noel Coward's favourite part in *Hands Across The Sea*, the Grandfather in *The Miasma of Mostyn Mews*, and several parts in a musical production of *Oh What A Lovely War*, making his debut as a solo vocalist. Since joining Wimborne Drama in 1997, Dave has taken the title role in *Mr Macaroni*, and appeared as Andrew Merrill in *The Roses of Eyam*, Sir Percy Shorter in *Habeas Corpus*, Rev Samuel Parris in *The Crucible* and Douglas in *No Room For Love*. Dave directed *Fur Coat and No Knickers* in 1998.



Mark Ellen (Sheridan)
Mark's character list reads like a Who's Who in polarised people. He's either being a 'thoroughly nice chap' as Henry Baskerville in Q2 Player's production of *Hound of the Baskervilles* in 1997, a deceiving Pontius

Pilate in *The Vigil* or a domineering crack-pot as Mr Manningham in Patrick Hamilton's Victorian melodrama *Gaslight*, again with Q2 players in 1999. In between there have been comedy roles as Norman in Alan Ayckbourn's *Round and Round the Garden* and Humphrey Devize in Christopher Fry's *The Lady's Not for Burning*. The role of Irish playwright and politician Sheridan marks Mark's debut for Wimborne Drama.

The Squire of Windsor

George III (or 'Farmer George' as he was affectionately known) took great pleasure at Windsor in visiting the three farms he had created in the Great Park and ensuring that they were profitably run.

He had a sound knowledge of agriculture and sheep farming and wrote letters under a pseudonym, Ralph Robinson, to the *Annals of Agriculture*. He was perfectly at ease with his farm workers, and with poor country people in general. He encouraged their children to play cricket and football and fly kites in the Great Park. He would stroll into their cottages unannounced, and talk to them about simple matters, sometimes alarming them at first by his abrupt manner and the way in which he would stand close to them, peering into their faces, but winning them over in the end by his obvious sincerity and the kindness of his intent.

There are numerous stories of his encounters with the villagers. One day he came across a boy in the Great Park. 'Who are you?' he asked him.

'I be pig boy but I don't work. They don't want lads here. All this belongs hereabouts to Georgy.'

'Pray, who is Georgy?'

'He is King and lives at the Castle, but he does no good to me.'

The King immediately saw to it that the boy was given work on one of his farms.

Where had all the other labourers gone? he asked another day of a woman working alone in a field at harvest time. They had all gone to see the King, she said, and added, 'I wouldn't give a pin to see him. Besides the fools will lose a day's work by it, and that is more than I can afford to do. I have five children to work for.'

'Well, then,' said the King, putting some money into her hand, 'you may tell your companions who are gone to see the

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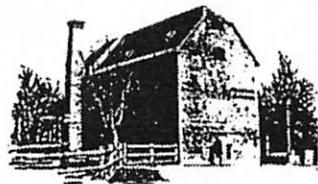
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Peter Brown
(Duke of York)

A newcomer to the Tivoli,
Peter is studying for a BTEC
National Diploma in
Performing Arts at
Bournemouth & Poole
College. Over the past two years he has
gained valuable acting experience in a
number of productions for Ferndown
Drama Group (*Dick Whittington, Murdered
to Death, Bums on Seats, Coarse Acting
Show and Shock!*) and also with KCA
Players (*Gentle Smuggler and Secret Diary
of Adrian Mole*).



Martin Matthews (Pitt)

Martin studied drama and
theatre studies and has gained
valuable experience whilst
working backstage at Poole
Arts Centre on several
productions including *Don
Giovanni* and *Frankie and Johnnie*. He was
involved with Wimborne Arts project *Rings
of Change* at Knowlton Church. For
Wimborne Drama he has played Rowland
Torre in *The Roses of Eyam*, Dennis in
Habeas Corpus, and also appeared in
Sweeney Todd, The Crucible and *No Room
For Love*. In Shakespeare he has played
Lysander in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*
and Sir Andrew Aguecheek in *Twelfth Night*.



Barry Baynton (Thurlow)

Barry is no stranger to Alan
Bennett's work having
directed our recent
productions of *Forty Years
On* and *Habeas Corpus*.
Barry joined Wimborne
Drama during 1993 appearing as the Owl in
The Owl and The Pussycat Went to See,
Ernest in *Bedroom Farce*, and Bill in
Woman in Mind. Other plays have included
A Voyage Round My Father, Fur Coat and
No Knickers, and *Run For Your Wife*. His
production of Pinter's *The Dumb Waiter*
won the 1998 Pokesdown Award for the
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Geoff Whipp (*George III*)
Geoff has been involved in the theatre since playing the title role in *Macbeth* at the age of twelve. An experienced Shakespearian actor and director, he formed Swan Theatre last year and directed *Twelfth Night*. He has also played Estragon in *Waiting for Godot* and the title role in Chekhov's *Uncle Vanya*. For Wimborne Drama Geoff has appeared in *Forty Years On* and *Sweeney Todd* and has directed *An Evening with Gary Lineker* and *The Roses of Eyam* which picked up two Daily Echo's Curtain Call Awards in 1999.



Chrissie Neal (*Queen Charlotte*)
Chrissie is a long standing member of Wimborne Drama who has involved herself in just about every aspect of production. Her recent acting credits include Mrs Swabb in *Habeas Corpus*, Edytha Torre in *The Roses of Eyam*, Eliza Fogg in *Sweeney Todd*, Monica in *An Evening with Gary Lineker*, 2nd ATS in *A Voyage Round My Father* and Mistress Pierce in *And So To Bed*. Chrissie stage managed *Woman in Mind* and *A Voyage Round My Father*.



Paul Dodman (*Prince of Wales*)
Paul has lived most of his life in Wimborne. He has worked for the RSC's Youth Theatre and has played George Bernard Shaw in *The Matchgirls* and The Nun's Priest in *The Canterbury Tales*. He co-directed the Bournemouth Youth Theatre in *Macbeth* and Aristophanes' *Lysistrata*. For Wimborne Drama he has appeared in *An Evening With Gary Lineker*, played the son in John Mortimer's *A Voyage Round My Father*, took the title role in *Lord Arthur Savile's Crime*, portrayed John Proctor in *The Crucible* and played the Manager in *No Room For Love*. In 1999 Paul directed *Blithe Spirit*.

King, that the King came to see you.'

His own servants became accustomed to being addressed in the same cheerfully familiar or inconsequential way. Inside the stables one morning he found the grooms arguing so urgently that they did not notice his arrival. 'I don't care what you say, Robert,' one of them said, 'but everyone else agrees, that the man at the Three Tuns makes the best purl in Windsor.'

'Purl? Purl? Purl?' whispered the King in his quick, excited way. 'Purl? What's purl, Robert?'

Robert answered that it was a tankard of warm beer with a glass of gin in it.

'I dare say a very good drink, grooms,' said the King so loudly that they all turned round and recognised him, 'but, grooms, too strong for the morning. Never drink in the morning, grooms.'

He never expected that they would take his advice, and many years later, arriving at the stables much earlier than usual, he found the place deserted except for a small lad who did not know him.

'Boy! Boy!' the King asked. 'Boy! Where are the grooms?'

'Don't know, sir, but they'll soon be back because they expect King.'

'Aha! Then run, boy, run, and say the King expects them. Run to the Three Tuns, boy. They are sure to be there, boy, for the landlord makes the best purl in Windsor.'

He often went down to the town himself. He liked strolling along the streets, tapping the stones with his long stick, looking in the shop windows, occasionally walking in to give the tradespeople instructions on how to vote in a local election.

He took a real interest in Windsor and its citizens. He contributed £1,000 to the paving of the streets of the town; sponsored a military hospital; and gave his support to the reconstruction of the Theatre Royal, which was reopened in 1794.



The King alarming a cottager at Windsor by his persistent questioning and close inspection (caricature by Gillray entitled *Affability*)

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Pitt The Younger's great-grandfather was Thomas 'Diamond' Pitt who lived in Blandford St Mary in the early 18th century. He was a wealthy individual who used his money to purchase land in the village, restore the church and establish his family as chief landowners.

Thomas Pitt was the second son of Rev John Pitt, Rector of Blandford St Mary 1645-1672. From 1694 to 1709 Thomas Pitt was governor of the East India Company's 'factory' at Madras, India, where he made a vast

personal fortune and bought one of the world's largest diamonds. In 1717 he sold, for a considerable profit, the diamond to Philippe II, duc d'Orleans, regent of France; now known as the 'Regent', the jewel is in the Louvre, Paris.



'Diamond' Pitt

On returning to England, Thomas Pitt became MP for Old Sarum and lived at Down House, Blandford St Mary. He died in 1726 and is buried, along with his father, in the family vault at Blandford St Mary Church.



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King interfered in politics far less than in his early reign. Pitt in turn treated the King tactfully. He dropped his early enthusiasm for parliamentary reform, and in 1801 he resigned over the issue of Roman Catholic emancipation rather than force the King to accept it.

His political successes, both in domestic and foreign affairs, were many. At home he strove for cheaper and more efficient administration, and reduced the national debt by £10 million between 1784 and 1793. He fostered legitimate trade and reduced smuggling by cutting import duties on certain commodities such as tea. In 1786 he signed an important commercial agreement, the Eden Treaty, with France, and in keeping with the argument made by economist Adam Smith in *The Wealth of Nations* (1776), Britain became less economically dependent on trade with America and became more adventurous in exploring trading opportunities in continental Europe. Abroad, he restored Britain's links with continental Europe and implemented imperial reorganisation. In 1788 he signed the Triple Alliance between Britain, Prussia, and Holland, thereby ensuring that in a future war his country would not be bereft of allies as it had been during the American Revolution. In 1790 he demonstrated Britain's renewed power and prestige by negotiating a peace between Austria and Turkey. In 1784 he passed his own India Act, creating a board of control regulating Indian affairs and the East India Company. Finally, in 1791 the Canada Constitutional Act was passed. London became responsible for the government of both Lower and Upper Canada, but both provinces were given representative assemblies.

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George III and his family were regular summer visitors to Weymouth from 1789 to 1804. The King was encouraged to go there for it was believed that the sea air and salt water would be beneficial to his health.

As the Royal party journeyed down from Windsor large crowds would gather in the towns and villages to watch and cheer the passing coaches. At Salisbury the inhabitants welcomed the King 'dressed out in white loose frocks, flowers and ribbons'. Approaching Blandford the landowners and their families 'stood at the gates, and their guests or neighbours were in carriages all around'. By Dorchester the crowds on the streets were even more dense and the roofs were covered with cheering spectators.

Whilst staying in Weymouth, the King would venture out in everyday clothes on early morning walks where crowds would already be gathered to greet the King on his walkabouts.

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Porphyria: the Royal malady

As a result of the studies by Richard Hunter and Ida Macalpine in the 1960s, we now know that George III inherited the rare disorder known as porphyria, which had afflicted James I and was transmitted to the Hanoverians by George III's great-great-grandmother, the Electress Sophia (James I's granddaughter). However, to doctors in the 18th century, the king's hallucinations, hysteria, paranoia and rambling speech would have pointed to simple madness.

Porphyria is characterised by the overproduction of porphyrins, reddish chemicals that are formed during the manufacture of the haemoglobin needed to carry oxygen around the body. This overproduction is caused by deficiencies in any of the body's enzymes (protein-based molecules) and leads to the body

becoming flooded with toxins.

Porphyric symptoms fall into two main categories - neurophysiological and dermatological. The former may include severe abdominal pain, constipation and such temporary mental disturbances as



A 1788 caricature by Thomas Rowlandson showing the Prince of Wales bursting into the sick king's bedroom

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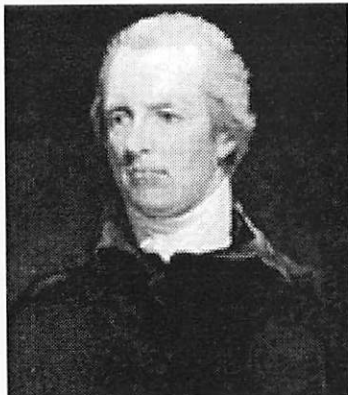
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Pitt The Younger

William Pitt, The Younger, was born in 1759, the second son of former Prime Minister William Pitt, 1st Earl of Chatham. His mother was Lady Hester Grenville, sister of George Grenville, also a former premier. Not surprisingly, therefore, his career path was mapped out from an early age. Both because he was extremely delicate and because his father disliked public schools, he was educated at home. He was a precocious boy and went to Pembroke Hall, Cambridge, at the age of 14. He was called to the bar in 1780 and was elected to Parliament the following year.



Pitt lived and died a bachelor, totally obsessed with political office. He was clever, single-minded, confident of his own abilities, and a natural politician. But perhaps his greatest asset in the early 1780s was his youth. He was just 24 when he became Prime Minister in 1783. Consequently, he was not associated in the public mind with the American debacle but seemed instead to promise a new era. Moreover, although he and George III never developed a close relationship, he did enjoy the King's support. Knowing that the alternative to Pitt was Fox (whom he hated), the King dealt with Pitt in a responsible manner. After his recovery from illness in 1789, the

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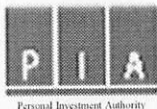
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anxiety, depression and delirium. Muscle frailty, numbness, respiratory weakness and a rapid heartbeat may also be associated with the disease. The dermatological features arise from the reaction of the porphyrins within the body to oxygen to generate toxic free radicals, resulting in skin rashes and blistering, especially on sun-exposed skin areas like the hands and face. The skin can seem very fragile, and excessive pigmentation and body hair may also appear. In most cases of porphyria there is production of highly pigmented urine.

Porphyria may be either acquired, or inherited through a genetic defect. The acquired forms are often related to liver disease, including alcohol-induced cirrhosis, but perhaps the most notorious example occurred in Turkey in the mid-1950s during which a large number of people ate bread derived from wheat that had been protected with the fungicide



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hexachlorobenzene. One of the body's enzymes is inactivated by hexachlorobenzene. As a consequence, affected individuals excreted excessive quantities of porphyrins and developed many of the dermatological features associated with porphyria, including blisters, sores, skin pigmentation and hairiness. Children were particularly badly affected and their physical appearance earned them the nickname of 'monkey children'.

Another commonly acquired form of porphyria is through lead poisoning. The presence of lead in the body blocks the activity of a number of enzymes. Patients exposed to excessive quantities of lead can therefore suffer some of the symptoms of porphyria, including severe abdominal pain, temporary mental disturbance and discolouration of the urine.

An infamous episode of lead poisoning occurred in Devon in 1759. This epidemic became known as the 'Devonshire colic' and afflicted thousands of people with a mysterious ailment whose symptoms included severe abdominal pain and mental confusion. The cause was eventually traced by George Baker, an outstanding young physician, to the contamination of the local cider with lead from the apple presses. Although Baker could not have understood the biochemistry at work in his ailing cider drinkers, he and others were able to relieve the suffering by recommending abstinence from the local tittle.

Much less fortunate than the people afflicted with acquired porphyrias are those suffering from inherited forms of the disease; they are prone to periodic attacks of the illness for which even today there is no known cure. Their symptoms can be more severe still and may persist throughout their lives. Porphyria was not classified as a distinct medical disorder until the early 20th century, but the young doctor who had diagnosed the root cause of the 'Devonshire colic' was soon to find

George III by Alan Bennett

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# The Madness of

## The House of Hanover

George III  
 Queen Charlotte  
 George, *Prince of Wales*  
 Frederick, *Duke of York*

## The Government

William Pitt, *the Prime Minister*  
 Edward Thurlow, *the Lord Chancellor*  
 Henry Dundas

## The Whigs

Charles James Fox  
 Richard Brinsley Sheridan

## The Royal Household

Captain Fitzroy, *King's Equerry*  
 Captain Greville, *King's Equerry*  
 Lady Elizabeth Pembroke, *Queen's Mistress of the Robes*  
 Papandiek, *Page*  
 Fortnum, *Page*  
 Braun, *Page*

~~~~~  
 Sir George Baker, *physician to the King*
 Dr Richard Warren, *physician to the Prince of Wales*
 Sir Lucas Pepys, *a London physician*
 Dr Francis Willis, *specialist in the treatment of intellectual maladies*
 Sir Boothby Skrymshir, *Member of Parliament for Berkshire*
 Mrs Elizabeth Bridget Armistead, *mistress of Mr Fox*
 Margaret Nicholson, *a petitioner* }
 Dr Ida Macalpine, *a modern doctor* }
 Footman

with Clare Downs, Rebecca Dudley-Smith,
 Tony Brown, Colin Clarke and Mel Gudger

*The action flows freely between Windsor, Westminster,
 Carlton House & Kew, September 1788 - April 1789
 There will be one interval of approximately 15 minutes*

Geoff Whipp
 Chrissie Neal
 Paul Dodman
 Peter Brown

Martin Matthews
 Barry Baynton
 Alex Compiani

Dave Williams
 Mark Ellen

Paul Hewitt
 James Carrington
 Penny Whipp
 Colin Pile
 Amanda Brown
 Bob Hucklesby

Simon Jackson
 Joe Brooks
 Chris Brown
 David Pile
 Howard Lovejoy
 Jean Dishington
 Margaret Pope
 Christian Napier

himself in charge of history's most famous porphyria patient.

In recognition of his brilliant work, George Baker was knighted and appointed head of King George III's medical staff, where he was soon faced with what should have been familiar symptoms of acute abdominal pain and mental confusion. However, it was the King's additional symptoms - the racing pulse, insomnia, sexual excesses, general malaise and discoloured urine - that obscured the similarity between the monarch's ailment and the 1759 Devonshire epidemic, and led Baker to record that he had never before seen anything like the King's symptoms.

In the 1990s, new evidence for porphyria in one branch of the European royal family, extending from Queen Victoria into the German line, came to light through the investigations of John Röhl, a professor of European history at the University of Sussex. The evidence came largely from letters written by three generations of princesses: Princess Victoria, also known as Vicky (1840-1901), the first daughter of Queen Victoria and the mother of the last German Kaiser; Vicky's daughter Princess Charlotte (1860-1919); and Charlotte's daughter Feodora (1879-1945). In these letters the princesses wrote of abdominal pain, skin lesions and the production of dark orange/red urine.

In order to establish for certain that porphyria was the cause of these ailments, Martin Warren and David Hunt of University College London decided to look for direct evidence of the disease in the DNA of the German princesses.

They traced the grave sites of Princess

Charlotte and Princess Feodora to Germany and Poland, respectively, and were granted permission to exhume them both. Several bone samples were taken from each grave and these were used for the isolation of sufficient quantities of DNA for analysis. On analysing Charlotte's and Feodora's DNA, they discovered a gene mutation, sufficient to cause porphyria, and which they demonstrated had been passed on from mother to daughter.

During the course of Warren and Hunt's studies, they met up with a medical practitioner who had diagnosed porphyria in Prince William of Gloucester (1941-1972), a descendant both of George III and of Queen Victoria, and first cousin of Queen Elizabeth II. This was in 1968, four years before the

Prince's death in a plane crash. Warren and Hunt thus claimed that there could be little doubt that George III did indeed have porphyria and that the faulty gene was passed on, via his fourth son Edward, Duke of Kent, to George III's granddaughter Queen Victoria, and thence to subsequent generations of the British and German royal families.

Some of the porphyric symptoms, especially skin disorders, were prevalent in most of George III's children. George, Prince of Wales (later George IV) also showed neurophysiological signs of the disease. He is said to have broken into hysterical giggling on hearing of Wellington's victory at Waterloo, and dunned a beaker of brandy to control his fit

There is no firm evidence of porphyria in any living members of the royal families, but as the disease is unpredictable, who can say for sure that porphyria will not once again strike down a member of the British royal family?



George III's fourth son Edward, Duke of Kent passed on the porphyria-causing gene to his daughter Queen Victoria

