



Skipton's Little Theatre

Season 2008-2009

Skipton Players Present

# Gaslight



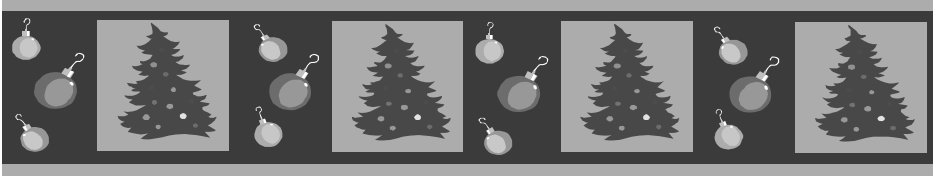
By

Patrick Hamilton

Directed by

Philip Smith

Tuesday 9th to Saturday 13th December 2008



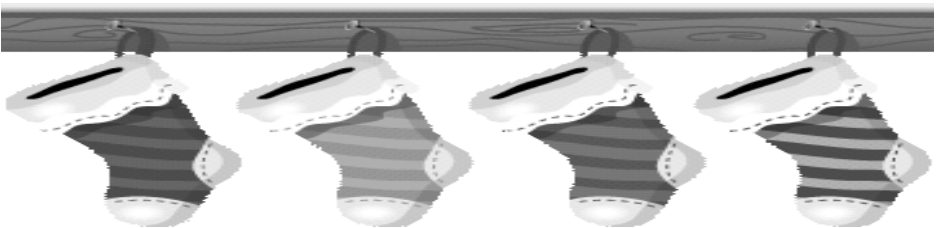
The Committee and Members  
of Skipton's Little Theatre

Would like to wish you a

**Very Merry Christmas  
&**

**Prosperous New Year**

We look forward to your continued support in 2009





## Notes from the Green Room

The second play in our 2008-2009 season should have been *Hotel Paradiso*, that famous French bedroom farce. However a sudden onset of ill-health by the producer, Thelma Hebden, a few weeks before it was due to go into rehearsal, meant that she had to postpone very reluctantly all outside activities for the time being. I am sure you will join us in wishing Thelma a speedy and complete recovery, and we look forward to *Hotel Paradiso* on another occasion.

We are very grateful to Phil Smith for offering to bring forward his production of *Gaslight* in its place. This even more so as he was also appearing in the Sutton-in-Craven pantomime!

We are therefore delighted to bring to the Little Theatre here in Skipton, Patrick Hamilton's famous play *Gas Light* written in 1938. After its initial stage production a British film version soon followed, but the 1944 American film adaptation *Gaslight*, to an altogether bigger budget, and starring Charles Boyer, Ingrid Bergman and Joseph Cotten, is the one most people will remember. It was released in Britain under the title *The Murder In Thornton Square*. It also featured a young eighteen year old Angela Lansbury on her debut role as Nancy the young maid. That film expanded the story considerably, but our stage version is faithful to the original plot. We are unable to use real gaslights for obvious reasons but it is interesting that the expression *gaslighting* has become a term for ruthlessly manipulating someone for nefarious reasons into believing something other than the truth! *Gas Light* was an immense hit and it remains one of the longest running non-musicals in Broadway history (Vincent Price famously playing the role of Mr Manningham), and still remains a perennial favourite with both repertory and amateur companies. Indeed this is not the first time it has been produced by Skipton Players, having been produced quite a number of years ago now by Thelma Hebden with her husband Geoffrey as Mr Manningham.

Our Christmas, or more precisely New Year party will be held in the Little Theatre on Saturday 3rd January and everyone is welcome, whether or not actively involved with Skipton Players. A small charge will cover food and you will need to bring your own drink. As usual the evening will be enlivened with impromptu entertainments. (See Advert on page 7)

Have you any wooden or plastic coathangers you could donate to the Theatre? We are in short supply and would very much appreciate any surplus to your requirements (sorry, no wire ones please).

**Martin Cole**, *Chairman*



**The Cast**  
**In order of appearance**

*Mrs Manningham*

*Alison Waters*

*Mr Manningham*

*Richard Wilkinson*

*Elizabeth*

*Ann Fisher*

*Nancy*

*Caroline Paley*

*Rough*

*Martin Cole*



# Synopsis



*Bella Manningham, once a beauty but now pallid and withdrawn, suffers from what she believes are the early stages of insanity, a disease from which her mother died. Her husband, Jack Manningham, struggles to help her, and spends his evenings out on the town in order to cope.*

*But what of the dimming lights and footsteps heard within the house while her husband is away? Are these simply a figment of her delusional mind?*

*Then late one evening, a stranger comes to the house while Jack is out and explains he is there to help Mrs. Manningham. Who is this man and what secrets does he know? Is Bella truly going mad? This Victorian thriller will keep you on the edge of your seat as you discover the mysteries of the Manningham home.*



*The Play is set in a living room on the first floor of a four-storied house in a gloomy and unfashionable quarter of London in the late 1890's.*

## Act 1

*Early evening*



## Act 2

*Scene 1            A few moments later*  
*Scene 2            Later that same night*



# Gaslight

## Production Team

Director

Co-Director

Prompt

Light Design

Lights

Set design

Set constructed by

Set Dressing

Poster Designed by

Programme by

Phil Smith

Chris Birch

Angela Freeman

Brian Wakeling

Brian Wakeling

& Neil Hellewell

Phil Smith

Roxanne Williams, Chris

Birch, Phil Smith

and Martin Cole

Martin Cole

Sarah Hellewell &

Neil Hellewell

Neil Hellewell



## **Why Not Reserve Your Tickets for Skipton's Little Theatre online???**

Visit us at

[www.skiptonlittletheatre.org.uk](http://www.skiptonlittletheatre.org.uk)

Please note that online reservations  
must be made at least 24 hours  
before the performance





# *Happy Birthday to Skipton's Little Theatre*

**GOLDEN JUBILEE 1960 - 2010**

**Skipton Players** were born, we think, sometime around 1923. Until then they were known as Skipton & District Amateur Operatic & Dramatic Society. For some reason the Dramatic side decided to split from the Operatic side and they became known as **Skipton Players**.

Without a permanent base they would rehearse wherever they could and performed either on the Town Hall stage or in Millfields Hall (now the Coffee House on Coach Street car park). It had always been their dream to have a home of their own and in 1960 that dream became a reality.

The Society bought the property on Clifford Street in 1959 and after a year of hard work finally opened **Skipton's Little Theatre** in May 1960.

Now, 50 years on, we will be celebrating our Golden Jubilee in May 2010. What form these celebrations will take has yet to be decided but it will be a time for looking back with gratitude to those people who fulfilled their dream and looking forward, hoping that **Skipton's Little Theatre** will still be here to celebrate their Centenary in 2060.

Beryl Binns



## **Skipton's Little Theatre New Year Party**

Saturday 3rd January 7.30

For members, players, friends and guests  
Tickets £2

Please contact Linda Whitam to reserve your place

Tel 01274 606869

or email [lindawitham@btinternet.com](mailto:lindawitham@btinternet.com)



# Skipton's Little Theatre

2008-2009 Season

9th to 13th December 2008

## Gaslight

By Patrick Hamilton  
Directed by Phil Smith

24th to 28th February 2009

## A Month of Sundays

By Bob Larbey  
Directed by Craig Cowdroy

21st to 25th April 2009

## *Intimate Exchanges*

By Alan Ayckbourn  
Directed by Ann Busfield

23rd to 27th June 2009

## Charley's Aunt

By Brandon Thomas  
Directed by Richard Wilkinson

All Productions start at 7.30pm Doors Open at 7.00pm

See Local Press for Details

Or Visit Us Online at

[WWW.skiptonlittletheatre.org.uk](http://www.skiptonlittletheatre.org.uk)