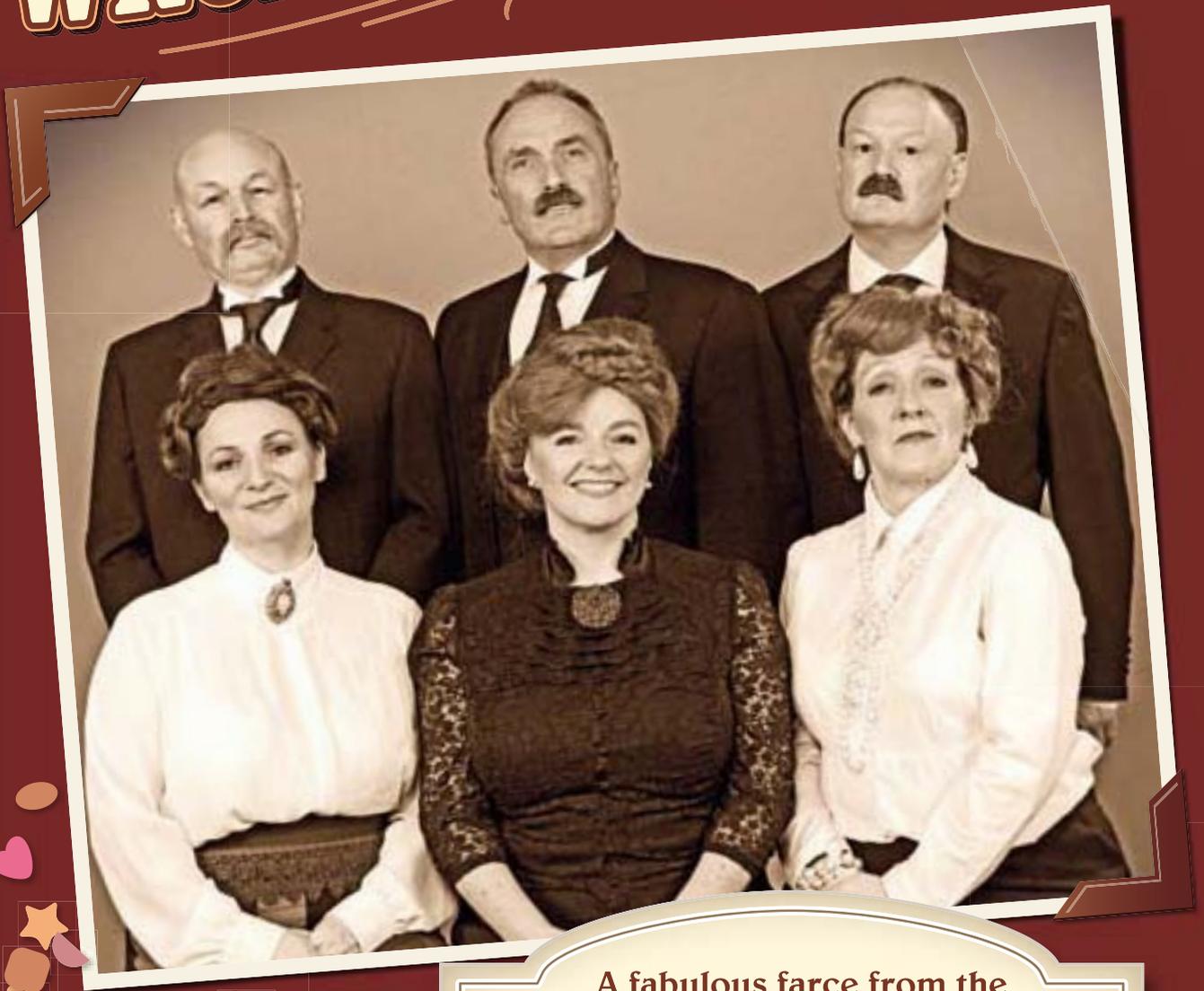


When We Are Married



A fabulous farce from the pen of Mr. J. B. Priestley.

Performed by the esteemed
Lambeg players

Directed by Mr. Wilfie Pyper

A Message from our Chairman



Jasper McKinney MBE
CHAIRMAN

Welcome to this year's production of J B Priestley's **When We Are Married**. Although Lambeg Players has performed this famous play twice before, this is a first in that we are being directed by a professional!

Wilfie Pyper has directed some of our cast before when they have taken roles in Belfast Operatic Company's musicals in the Grand Opera House but this is the first time he has worked with Lambeg Players.

As a very experienced, award-winning director, Wilfie has challenged us all to stretch ourselves both on and off the stage and even I have taken to my iPad to design an interpretive set and got my sleeves rolled up with Alastair to bring it to fruition!

As always, it has been a team effort and we are going to have a great time performing for you, so please sit back, relax and enjoy the show.

Jasper McKinney MBE
CHAIRMAN



This year we are again going on tour and will perform as follows:

Belfast	Belvoir Studios, Castlereagh	Fri. 14th and Sat. 15th June
Lisburn	Lagan Valley Island (Studio Theatre)	Thurs. 27th and Fri. 28th June
Portrush	Summer Theatre	Wed. 21st to Sat. 24th August
Ballyearl	Courtyard Theatre	Fri. 6th and Sat. 7th September



The Play - Cast & Crew

Priestley's classic British farce begins when a group of old friends, all married on the same day in the same chapel, gathers at the Helliwells' home to celebrate their silver anniversary. These staunch West Riding chapel folk have summoned the new organist to reprimand him for courting an unidentified maiden. To their consternation, he tells them that he recently met the person who conducted the triple wedding ceremony, and who was not authorised to do so. Pandemonium breaks out when these pillars of society believe they have been living in sin for 25 years. Each couple initially reacts with proper Victorian horror – what will the neighbours think? – but soon all three couples find themselves re-evaluating their marriages with hilarious results.

The action of the play takes place in the sitting-room of Alderman Helliwell's house in Cleckleywyke, a town in West Riding, on a September evening early in the twentieth century.

ACT ONE

An evening in September

ACT TWO

Half an hour later

INTERVAL

ACT THREE

Quarter of an hour later

Ruby Birtle Karen Bennington
Gerald Forbes Jonathan Moore
Nancy Holmes Fiona Dickson
Alderman Joe Helliwell Paul Bennington
Maria Helliwell Gillian Cherry
Councillor Albert Parker Colin Boyd
Annie Parker Liz Boyd
Herbert Soppitt Ian Bennington
Clara Soppitt Laura Kerr
Mrs Northrop Jacqueline Clarke
Fred Dyson Sam Boyd
Henry Ormonroyd Moore Brown
Lottie Grady Aine Hennessey
Rev. Clement Mercer Noel Marsden

Producer Wilfie Pyper
Stage Manager Alastair Dickson
Set Design Jasper McKinney
Build and Décor Alastair Dickson
..... Jasper McKinney, Della McKinney
Sound/Lights Catherine Bennington
Wigs Sandra Byrne
Properties Jonathan Moore
Rehearsal Monitor Roberta Bennington
Business Manager Henry Brown
Costume Catherine Bennington
Production Assistant Fiona Dickson
Marketing Manager Ellen Hillen

Lambeg Players Would Like To Thank:

Rosemary Drama Group
Belvoir Players
Banbridge Choral Society
Terry Design, Portadown
Karen Webb
Pond Park Primary School



Biographies



Aine Henessey – *Lottie Grady*

Aine joined Lambeg Players in January of this year and this is her first performance with the group. Having previously been an avid member of Valhalla Street Theatre, Aine enjoyed her roles in numerous murder mysteries, ghost tours and historical plays. Being an accountant she finds drama an excellent escape from the office. She is nervous but excited about the performances ahead and

hopes that her involvement with the Lambeg Players continues long after the play is over... even if this just means making the tea and biscuits at rehearsals. 🍪



Gillian Cherry – *Maria Helliwell*

Gillian joined Lambeg Players a mere twenty-four years ago and has enjoyed many pantomimes and plays throughout that time. Exchanging one sort of drama for another, she took a break to have a family and is now Mum to two young boys. She has portrayed a colourful array of characters over the years, however, two roles in particular lie close to her heart; the nosy neighbour, Emily Beattie from 'Family Fever' and the portly, cigarette puffing

Gladys Gilmore from 'Cupid Wore Skirts' who had more husbands than hot dinners. This year sees Gillian at the opposite end of the social spectrum as she enjoys playing the original desperate housewife Maria Helliwell, wealthy socialite and wife to Alderman Helliwell, horrified to find herself in the midst of what could be the public scandal of the century that would see her reputation in tatters. 🍪



Karen Bennington – *Ruby Birtle*

Karen has been involved with the Lambeg Players since she was ten years old. She is currently doing her AS levels in Methody. She studies German, Music, Maths and Business Studies. Karen enjoys performing with her Dad Ian and her Uncle Paul on stage. She has recently done her grade 7 singing exam and is working towards her grade 7 piano. In Methody, Karen choreographs the senior and

junior musicals and sings in the chapel, girls and senior choirs. In 2012 she took part in the UK Youth Choir of the Year and RTE All Island Choir of the Year with the girls choir, who won both of these titles. This summer she is spending a week singing in Westminster Abbey with the chapel choir. Her favourite hobbies are reading Harry Potter, watching Doctor Who and baking cakes. 🍪



Colin Boyd – *Councillor Albert Parker*

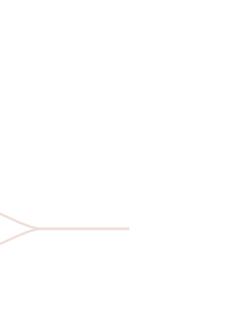
Colin has been with Lambeg Players for over 30 years. His early theatrical performances were on the stage of the Grand Opera House in the Belfast Scout Gang Shows of the 70's and 80's. He has since returned there in appearances with Belfast Operatic Company in "Kiss Me Kate", "Annie Get Your Gun," Disney's Beauty and the Beast and "Titanic". Colin has appeared with Bangor Operatic Society, and Lisnagarvey Operatic Society, most recently as Widow Twankey,

in their Panto "Aladdin". He also appeared with Belmont Drama as Jack Worthing in "The Importance of being Ernest" a role that he ranks amongst his favourites. Colin has portrayed many comical characters in Sam Cree plays over the years with Lambeg, some of which he has also directed. This year he is looking forward to reprising the role of Councillor Albert Parker in this classic J B Priestley farce, which he last played in 1999. 🍪





Biographies



Ian Bennington – *Herbert Soppitt*

Ian has been involved with Lambeg Players for more years than he can remember and is also a member of Belfast Operatic. His favourite roles in pantomimes have included Buttons, Mr. Tickle and Wishy Washy. He has also produced several pantomimes and plays but is relieved to sit back this time and let Wilfie do it properly. He also enjoyed playing the dim-witted Willie Beattie in 'Family Fever', Frank

Devlin in 'Stop it Nurse!' and the not so macho Ronnie in 'Cupid Wore Skirts'. This is the third time he has played Herbert Soppitt in this excellent Priestley farce. 🍷



Jonathan Moore – *Gerald Forbes*

Jonathan joined the Lambeg Players in 2001 and plays the part of Gerald Forbes, the young church organist in tonight's play. He has returned after a two year sabbatical, having last played the role of Dennis Hall in Sam Cree's "Wedding Fever", a re-visited part after making his stage debut with the Lambeg Players back in 2001 with its sequel "Family Fever". He has also notably played Kalil the

Monster in "Ali Baba", Lord Twit in "Wee Willie Winkie", Robin in "The Mating Season", Henry Jefferson in "Second Honeymoon", Billy Nicholson in "Strictly for the Birds", the King in "Cinderella" and the Grand Vizier in "Aladdin" 2001. 🍷



Fiona Dickson – *Nancy Holmes*

Fiona has been with the Players taking on a variety of roles both on and off stage. Particular highlights include Sally Mitchell in 'Second Honeymoon', Babs in 'The Mating Season' and Dolores Maxwell in 'Stop It Nurse'. Mother of three daughters, Fiona works in countryside management and in her spare time enjoys running, recently achieving a personal best in the Runher Coastal Challenge!

This year Fiona is delighted to be playing the part of 20 year old Nancy. Although she's worried that the make up team have quite a job to do. Hopefully her love interest Gerald doesn't mind courting an older woman! 🍷



Paul Bennington – *Alderman Joe Helliwell*

Paul is a well known face in Lambeg productions and has taken part in many plays and pantomimes. He has also produced many of our shows over the years. Paul played the part of the hen pecked Patrick Hall in "Family Fever" making the role his own with a strong Ballymena accent and antics on the stage and also played a leading part in last summer's production "Cupid Wore Skirts".

In the production "Stop it Nurse" he played Sammy McCracken, the obsessive Linfield supporter. He was able to apply a lot of the background knowledge he gains from managing the Banbridge Town Under 16 soccer team. 🍷



Biographies



Liz Boyd – *Annie Parker*

Elizabeth is thoroughly enjoying her third appearance with The Lambeg Players. She is probably best known for her years of singing with Belfast Operatic Company, taking lead roles in many productions in the Grand Opera House in Belfast. As well as her involvement with musical theatre, Elizabeth sings regularly with many of the province's choral societies, has broadcast on both BBC and Downtown

Radio and appeared on Ulster Television with James Ellis. Since 2008 she has staged her one-woman show twice in Belfast's Baby Grand Theatre and at various venues around the Province. 🎭



Laura Kerr – *Clara Soppitt*

A member of both Belfast Operatic and Lambeg Players, Laura has played leading roles in musicals, pantomimes and plays for many years. She also produces pantomimes and does choreography for Lambeg Players. Laura is delighted to once again be playing a bossy role in this production (hot on the heels of last year's caustic Aunt Harriet in 'Cupid Wore Skirts'), as it comes so naturally to her. In 2011 she was exhausted playing two roles in

'Stop it Nurse!' - Miss Cherry and Martha! In 2012 Laura played the part of Alice Beane in the fabulous centenary production of 'Titanic the Musical' with Belfast Operatic Company. A teacher in Pond Park Primary, Lisburn, she is heavily involved with the school choir and musical productions and has just finished a triumphant Calamity Jane. 🎭



Jacqueline Clarke – *Mrs Northrop*

Jacqueline again joins her sister Laura on stage as she has done so many times in Lambeg's pantomimes and plays. Her other sister Paula, Father Jackie, brother Charlie and sons Daniel and Joshua have all acted on stage with her in Lambeg productions and her husband Geoff has been behind the sound desk for most of those! What a big happy family Lambeg is! Her favourite roles were, Mrs Mansfield

in "Second Honeymoon" Janet McVeigh in "Married Bliss" and Rachel Cathcart in "Widows' Paradise". Like a few others in Lambeg, her early appearances were in Gang Show and with Salvation Army Productions. 🎭



Sam Boyd – *Fred Dyson*

Sam is following in the footsteps of his father, Colin, by now appearing in his fourth play. He took the title role of Wee Willie Winkie in one of our previous pantomimes and judging by his current stature, this was some considerable time ago! Sam has also played Vince Fontaine in Banbridge High School's production of the

musical 'Grease'. Sam is an accomplished rugby player having represented Ulster at youth level and plays regularly for Banbridge. 🎭



Biographies



Moore Brown – *Henry Ormonroyd*

Moore is a long standing member of the Lambeg Players and has been in numerous plays and pantomimes during that time. He has played the Dame on several occasions and a variety of roles in our plays. Harold Smiley in "Stop It Nurse" was one of Moore's favourite roles – lying on the bed meant it was obviously less demanding physically and he got a wee rest during the show. He also takes

on the responsibility of treasurer for the Lambeg Players as he is such a wee treasure himself and we wouldn't know what we would do without him. A keen golfer in his spare time, Moore can be found on golf courses all over the country. Moore is particularly proud of his young son Ben's recent achievement when he acted and sang in "Pirates of Penzance" in his P7 final show. 🍷



Noel Marsden – *Rev. Clement Mercer*

Noel only came along to our first rehearsal of last year's Pantomime "Aladdin" to bring his son and ended up auditioning. So impressed was the producer that he landed the role of the Genie in his first ever pantomime. However, he has vast experience of performing having played piano, guitar and sung in a band for many years. He has also recently taken roles in "Allo Allo" and "The Full Monty" with Simon

Cunningham's Showcase Productions. He is delighted to be involved in this Priestley farce and his fellow cast members hugely value his musical contribution to all after show parties! 🍷



Wilfie Pyper – *Director*

Wilfie is delighted to be directing Lambeg Players for the first time in this classic Priestly play. Wilfie has worked with companies all over the North and has been resident director with The Belfast Operatic Company for some 27 years. His catalogue of productions for them is immense however those at the Grand Opera House include 'Oklahoma', The Pirates Of Penzance (Broadway and traditional), Show Boat, Brigadoon, The Mikado, Kiss Me Kate, Hello Dolly (twice), Annie Get Your Gun, Calamity Jane, Fiddler on The Roof, 'Orpheus in the Underworld' and Beauty and The Beast and returns in November with a Northern Ireland premier production of 'A Christmas Carol'.

Included in these was the highly acclaimed Irish premiere of Titanic. The recent Centenary performance in April 2012 gained Wilfie

a Best Director award from the Association of Irish Music Societies in the Gilbert section and it along with a Best Director award in the Sullivan section for his production of The Sound of Music which made him the first director in the north to receive this accolade and the first in Ireland for seventeen years.

Other productions include for Lisnagarvey Operatic society Guys and Dolls, Oklahoma, Me and My Girl, My Fair Lady, Calamity Jane, Carousel, Pirates of Penzance. Fiddler on the Roof, The Merry Widow and The Sound of Music and Annie Get Your Gun He was also delighted to direct the N.I. premier of Meet Me In St Louis for the Fortwilliam Society at the Waterfront Hall Belfast. He has just completed a run with Mac and Mabel with Rush musical society in Dublin which also went on tour to Sweden. 🍷



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JUNE Lisburn
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SEPTEMBER Ballyearl
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