

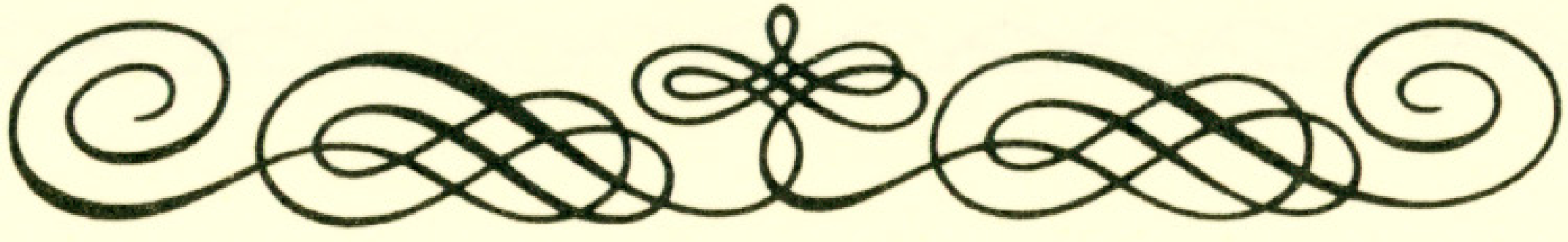


NORMAN THELWELL 1931

MOTTISFONT ABBEY, HAMPSHIRE – NORMAN THELWELL 1981

The Maskers Theatre Company are grateful to the internationally famous cartoonist, Norman Thelwell, for permission to reproduce this original oil painting from his personal collection as a limited edition souvenir programme in support of the Wessex Childrens Cancer Unit Appeal.

© Norman Thelwell



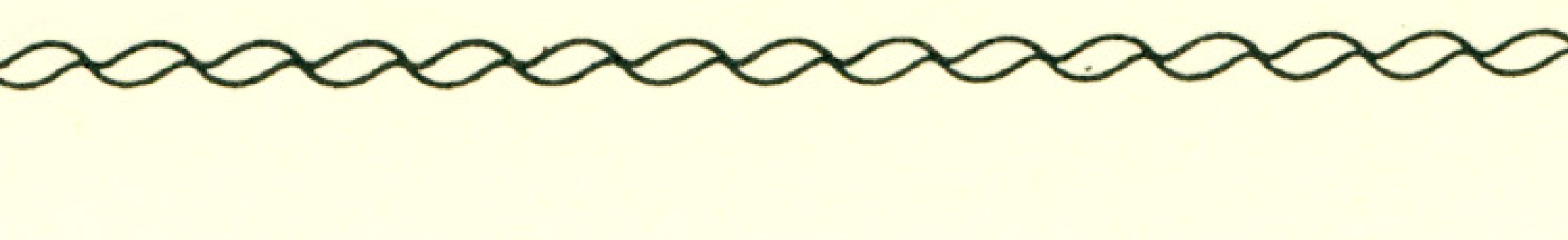
THE MASKERS THEATRE COMPANY
21st Anniversary Production

*Much Ado
About
Nothing*

by

William Shakespeare

GALA NIGHT SUNDAY 23RD JULY
In aid of the Wessex Children's Cancer Unit Appeal



Cast

in order of appearance

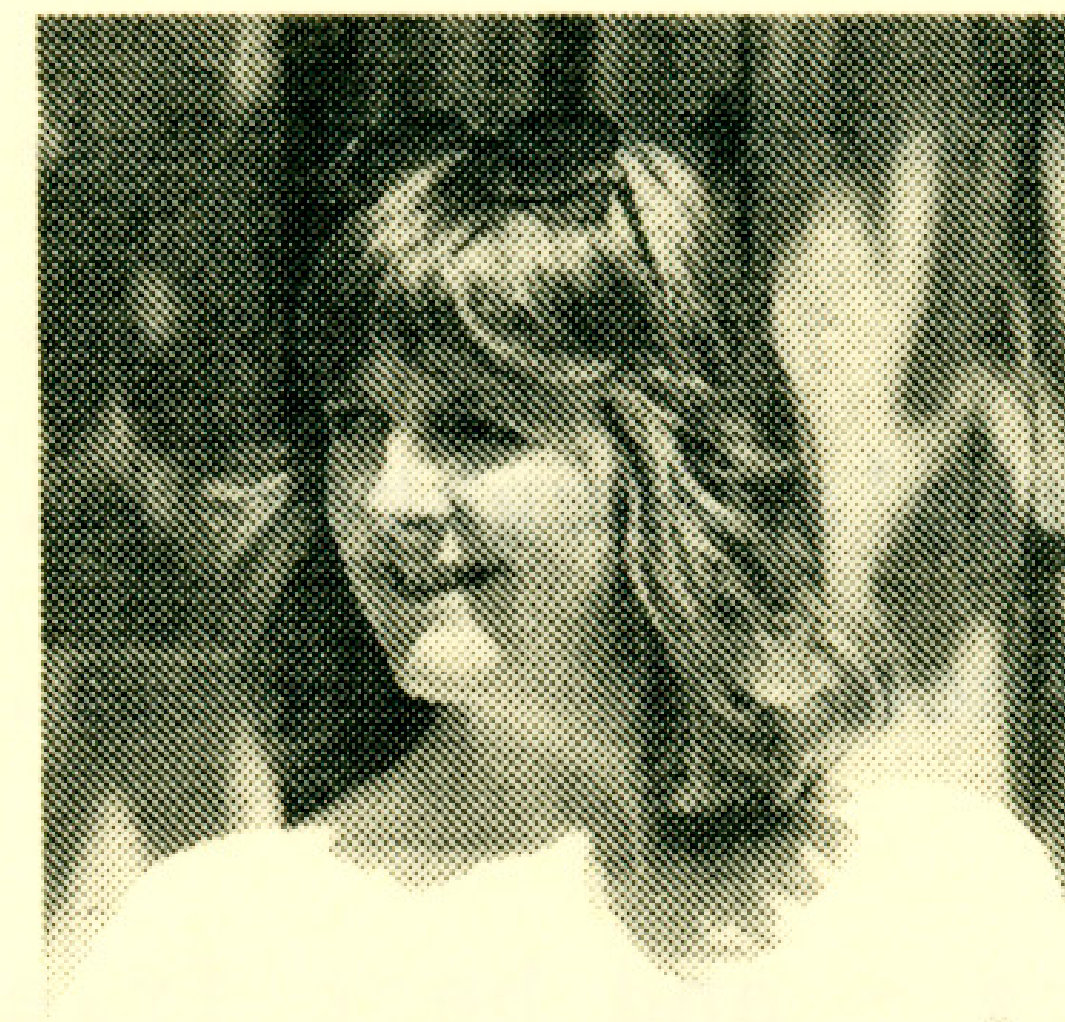
A MESSENGER	.....	Mr James Smith
URSULA	- a ladies maid	Miss Jean Durman
LEONATO	- uncle to Beatrice	Mr John Smith
BEATRICE	.....	Miss Belinda Drew
HERO	- Leonato's daughter	Miss Georgia Bance
DON PEDRO	- a Prince	Mr David Pike
BENEDICK } CLAUDIO }	- Counts - and best friends	Mr Brian Stansbridge
DON JOHN	- Don Pedro's illegitimate brother	Mr Christopher Bennett
ANTONIO	- Leonato's brother	Mr David Bartlett
CONRADE } BORACHIO }	- 'Hangers on' to Don John	Mr Albert Minns
MARGARET	- the Housekeeper	Mr Alan Watson
A GARDENER	.....	Mr Bruce Atkinson
BALTHASAR	- the Butler	Miss Jenni Watson
DOGBERRY	- a Constable	Mr John Carrington
VERGES	- an Assistant Constable	Mr Graham Buchanan
THE WATCH	.....	Mr John Souter
		Mr Graham Buchanan
		Mr Kenneth Spencer
		Mr Derek Sealey
		Mr Graham Hill
		Mr John Carrington
		Mr Barry Glasspell
		Mr Michael Shailer
		Mr Peter Neave
THE VICAR	.....	Mr Harry Tuffill
THE JUDGE	.....	Mr Albert Minns

The

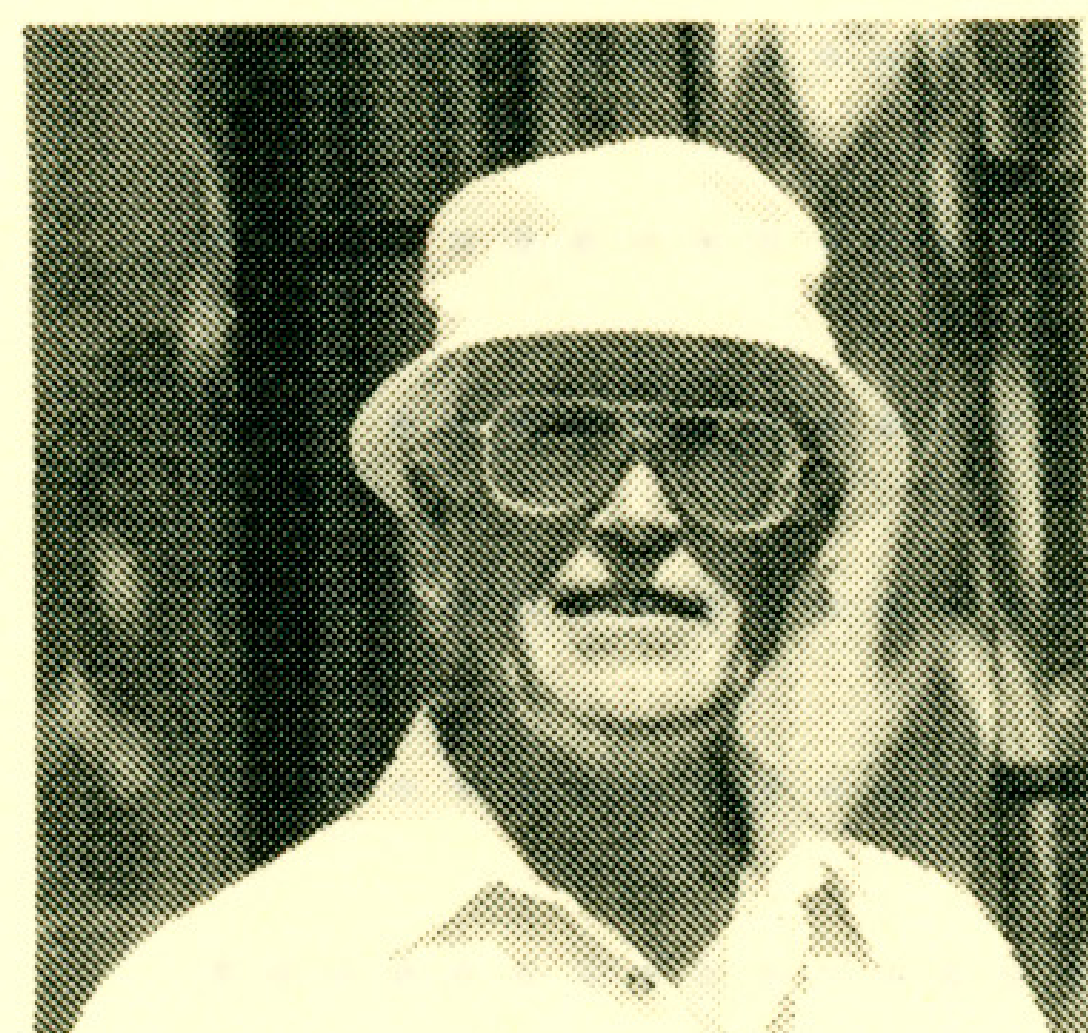


BRIAN STANSBRIDGE - Brian is a Personnel and Training Manager for Southampton City Corporation. He has played many times at Mottisfont, including the lead in 'Tom Jones'; 'Cyrano de Bergerac'; 'Ring Round the Moon' and 'The Rover'. He is an accomplished folk singer and married to Angela - wardrobe mistress for 'Much Ado'.

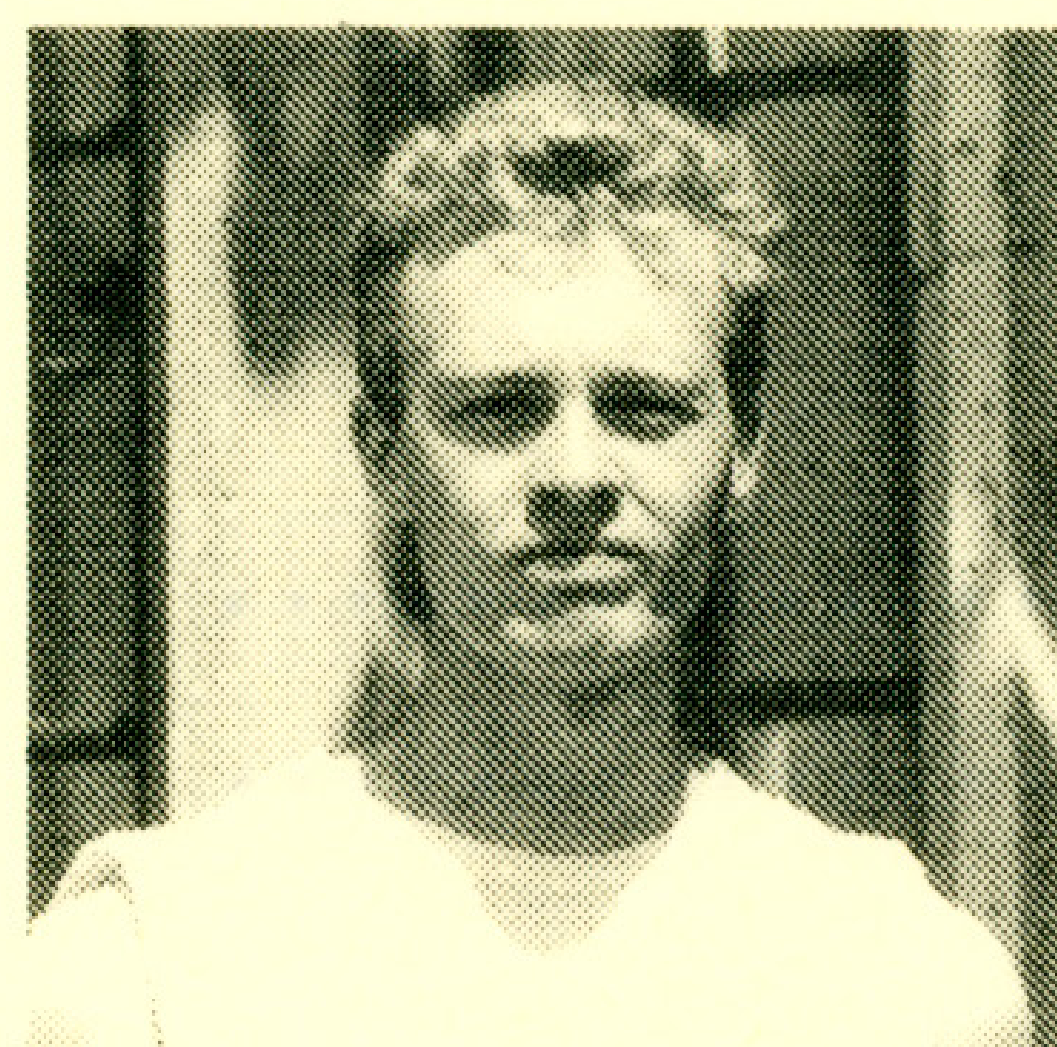
BELINDA DREW - joined 'The Maskers' to play Jill in 'Equus' at the Nuffield ten years ago. She has since had many major roles and was Musical Director for 'Lock Up Your Daughters'. This is her third Mottisfont appearance. She is professionally employed with Hampshire Theatre in Education based in Southampton.



JOHN SMITH - one-time teacher and youth leader now lecturing in the University School of Education, John has lengthy connections with amateur theatre groups and is making his debut with 'The Maskers'. He is perhaps better known as a Director, especially with Southampton University Players.



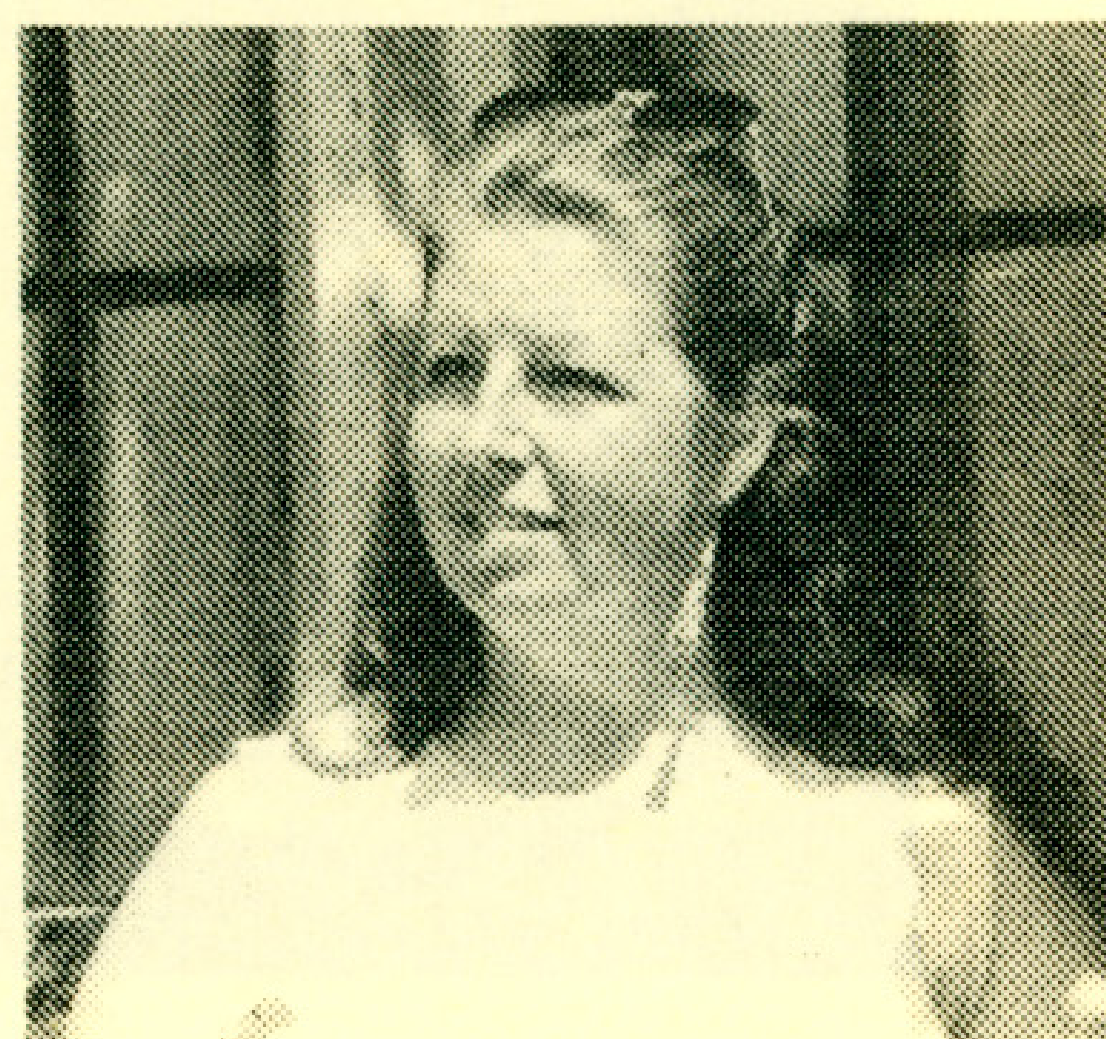
DAVID PIKE - A teacher in various Hampshire schools during the last 30 years, David is now an Educational Representative for Hampshire. He started acting in the '40's with the Romsey Abbey Drama Group and RAODS. Joining 'The Maskers' in 1970 to play Napoleon in 'War & Peace', he has since had many leading roles, including four previous Mottisfont productions.



CHRIS BENNETT - Age 25, Chris joined 'The Maskers Youth Theatre' after graduating from the Vienna School of Toothpick Carving in 1987, and has now moved on to join the grown-ups. He mistakenly heard that this production was to be a play written by Joe Orton after his death.

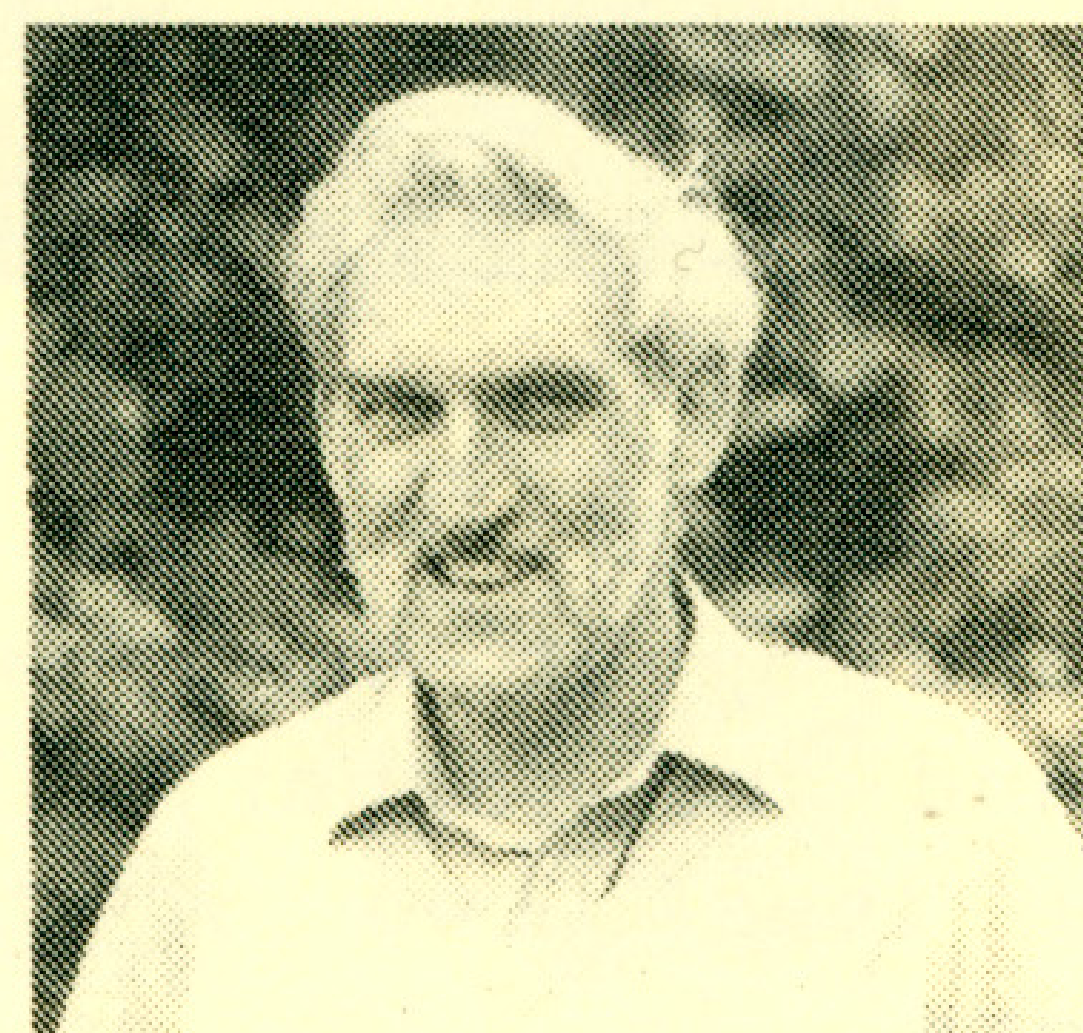
Company

JIM SMITH - a found member of 'The Maskers', played Benedick in our original production and has had over 20 leading roles since. A lecturer at the University, he has published several books on theatre, including a study of melodrama; editions of Wycherley, Vanbrugh & Boucicault, and shortly, Four Georgian Comedies.



JENNI WATSON - a part-time secretary who has been with 'The Maskers' more years than she cares to remember! She has had many roles including recently, Beatrice Lacy in 'Rebecca' and the Countess in 'Flare Path'; perhaps her most demanding role was as Vladimir in 'Waiting for Godot'.

HARRY TUFFILL - an executive with IBM, currently working on secondment to Wessex Regional Health Authority managing their computer developments, Harry played Sir Thomas More in our first Mottisfont appearance, 'A Man for All Seasons'. Married with two sons, his wife is director of Winchester Samaritans.

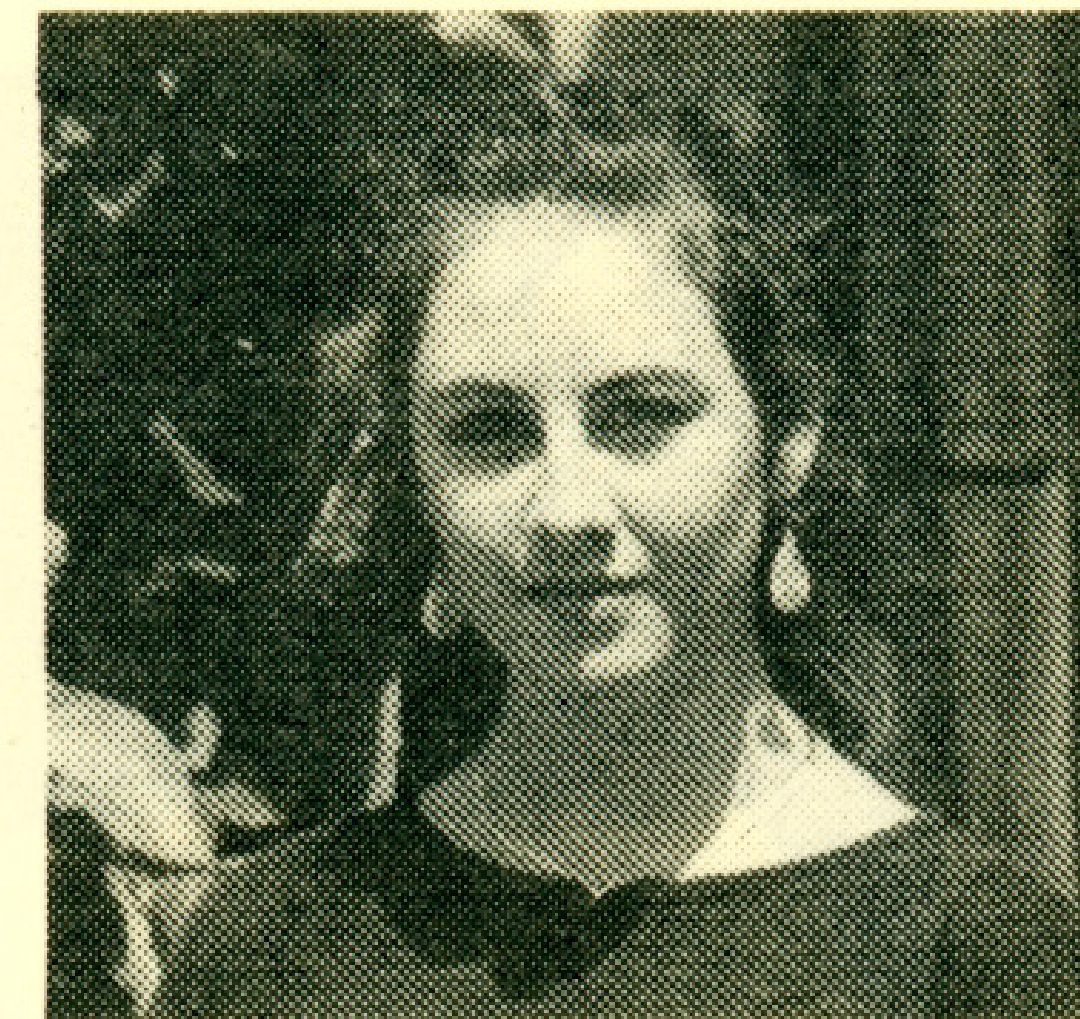


JOHN SOUTER - since coming to the area from Tyneside in 1969 John has acted with most of the major local theatre groups. Over the years he has tackled most of Shakespeare's clowns with Forum Theatre at Netley Abbey - including Dogberry. John retired early from a career in Engineering to pursue his interest in sculpture.



ALBERT MINNS - by profession a barrister, 'Albie' Minns is now the full-time manager of the Wessex Childrens Cancer Unit Appeal. He joined 'The Maskers' in 1986 for the Mottisfont production of 'Cyrano', and won the Best Actor award at the 1987 All England Theatre Festival for Harry in Ayckebourne's 'Drinking Companion'.

GEORGIA BANCE - a 17 year old member of 'Maskers Youth Theatre', Georgia is studying 'A' level English, German and Art at Richard Taunton College after attending Cantell School. She hopes to go on to do Drama at University or Drama College. She has also played with Forum Theatre and Southampton University Players.



DAVID BARTLETT - David is a Disablement Resettlement Officer who has long ago lost count of the number of productions he has been involved in both in the UK and Singapore and Australia. An original Masker, David played Antonio in the first 'Much Ado', and has also directed a number of shows.

JEAN DURMAN - Jean is an accounts administrator at a Winchester hospital and joined 'The Maskers' six years ago playing Stella in 'Streetcar Named Desire'. This is her fifth Mottisfont appearance, but she has also played outdoor theatre in the tropical heat of Mombasa, Kenya at a Muslim school.



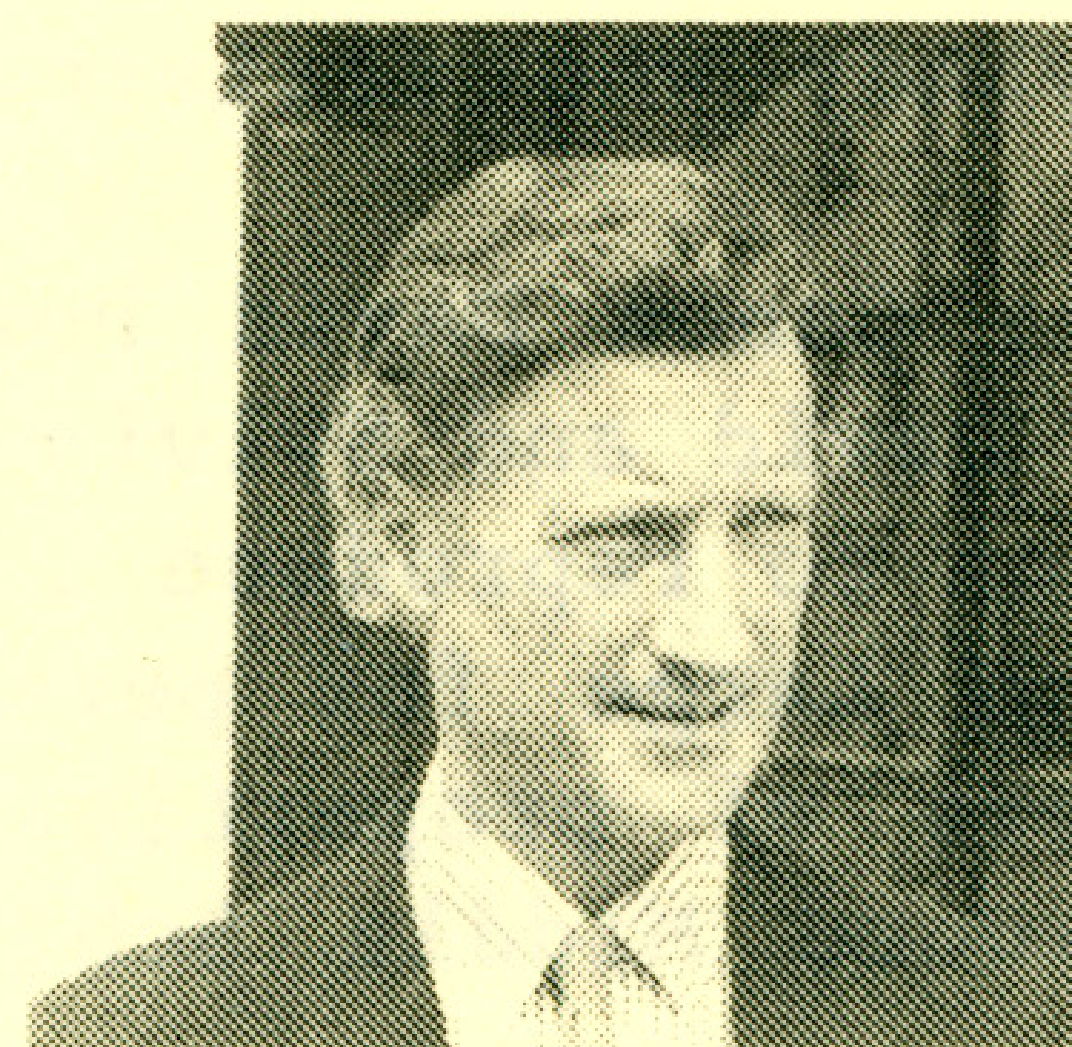
ALAN WATSON - An ex-policeman, ex-soldier, ex-land agent and now a sales representative, husband and father, Alan has found satisfaction in a least two of these roles. Joined 'The Maskers' in 1975 as an unforeseen result of marrying Jenni.

BRUCE ATKINSON - Bruce is a Project Engineer with IBM at Hursley, and began acting in New Zealand, and subsequently with the Esso Drama & Music Club on his return to the UK 7 years ago. He joined 'The Maskers' last year after coming to Mottisfont to see 'The Rover'.



GRAHAM BUCHANAN - a founder member of 'The Maskers' who has acted the complete 'ABC' of drama and directed many shows, including various touring productions of Shakespeare at Winchester Theatre Royal, the Old Salisbury Playhouse and the Nuffield. His productions of Gilbert & Sullivan have surprised many. Graham is a Project Engineer with the Pirelli Cable Company.

JOHN CARRINGTON - a founder member of the company, John played Claudio in the first production. Since then he has had many major roles, and has directed several successful shows such as 'Lysistrata' and 'Oh What a Lovely War'. John is a school teacher.



MICHAEL PATTERSON - senior partner of Penyards, the Estate Agents, which he founded some 8 years ago, Michael joined 'The Maskers' as Musical Director for 'A Funny Thing.....', directed our first Mottisfont production 'A Man for All Seasons' and wrote and played an original score for the only show ever repeated by the company, 'The Owl and the Pussycat'.

for 'Much Ado'

PRODUCED & DIRECTED by	MICHAEL PATTERSON
PRODUCTION ASSISTANTS	Graham Buchanan John Carrington Belinda Drew
STAGE MANAGER	Julia Campone
ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGERS	Debbie Moorhouse, Shauna Lockett, Sally Hilton
LIGHTING DESIGN	Clive Weekes
LIGHTING ASSISTANTS	Anthony Baldry, Simon Pike, Ian Pooley
SOUND PLOT	Tony Lawther
SOUND OPERATORS	Wendy Hall, Richard Gorbutt
WARDROBE	Angela Stansbridge, Mollie Manns
PROPERTIES	Sheana Carrington
SET CONSTRUCTION	Geoff Cooke, Bill Pitman
SET PAINTING	Ken Spencer
PRODUCTON ASSISTANCE	Ron Tillyer, Sonia Morris, Geoff Wharam
POSTER DESIGN	John Hamon
FRONT OF HOUSE AND BAR	Angela Barks

'THANK YOU' to

The Maskers Theatre Company would like to thank everybody who assisted in this production, and in particular:

Barbara and John Cavanagh for hosting us here tonight; Canon David Howe for vestments; Michael Vardy of Vardy Restorations of Mottisfont for the car; David and Sylvia Pankhurst for car parking and Box Office facilities; Norman Thelwell for permission to reproduce a painting from his private collection for our souvenir programme; Professor John Large for permission to rehearse in the grounds of the University's Chilworth Manor; suppliers of properties, including 'Blazer' The Square Winchester; Dr R Walton; Lorraine Firth; Oakwood Middle School; Sparsholt College of Agriculture; Flower Corner Portswood Southampton.

THE MUSIC

All the music - apart from the Dorische Toccata by J S Bach heard in the Church scene in the Third Act - is contemporary to the period of our setting. The scenes are precursed throughout by various Preludes by Alexander Scriabin (1872-1915); the Second Act ends with the Finale from the B flat minor Piano Sonata by Balakirev (1837-1910); and the third opens and ends with a Waltz for Two Pianos by Rachmaninov written in 1894. The music from the Ball in Act Two is well known operetta - including Sullivan.

the maskers

The Maskers Theatre Company is 21 years old this week. It is hard to believe that, on 25 July 1968, a small group of dedicated amateur actors and actresses agreed, in the library of Chilworth Manor, to form the Company and to go straight into a production of 'Much Ado About Nothing'. The production subsequently toured throughout the region and the Company first performed in their home city of Southampton in the ballroom of the then Skyways Hotel on 25 November 1968; some two months later we were offered a date at the Nuffield Theatre and have performed there regularly since.

In the past 21 years we have presented some 160 productions, large and small, in a wide variety of venues (including this Abbey, Southampton Common and an empty butcher's shop in Eastleigh) and rehearsals have moved from member's lounges, to the back room of a pub (with the attendant sound effects from the adjacent gent's loo), to a derelict school, to our own theatre at The Bassett Hotel and currently at The Eastpoint Centre. Our theatrical fare has covered everything from Ayckbourn to Zuckmeyer, French farces, English Classics, moderns, potboilers, political tracts, social documents etc.

The Company has always prided itself on its high standards and our endeavour has always been to offer our audiences a 'professional' product. We offer you 'Much Ado About Nothing' and extend our thanks to you, our audience, for your presence this evening, for your past support here and at our other venues and, hopefully, your support in the coming 21 years.

If you would like to join the Company or receive details of future productions, please contact: Jan Ward, 123 Upper Shirley Avenue, Southampton.

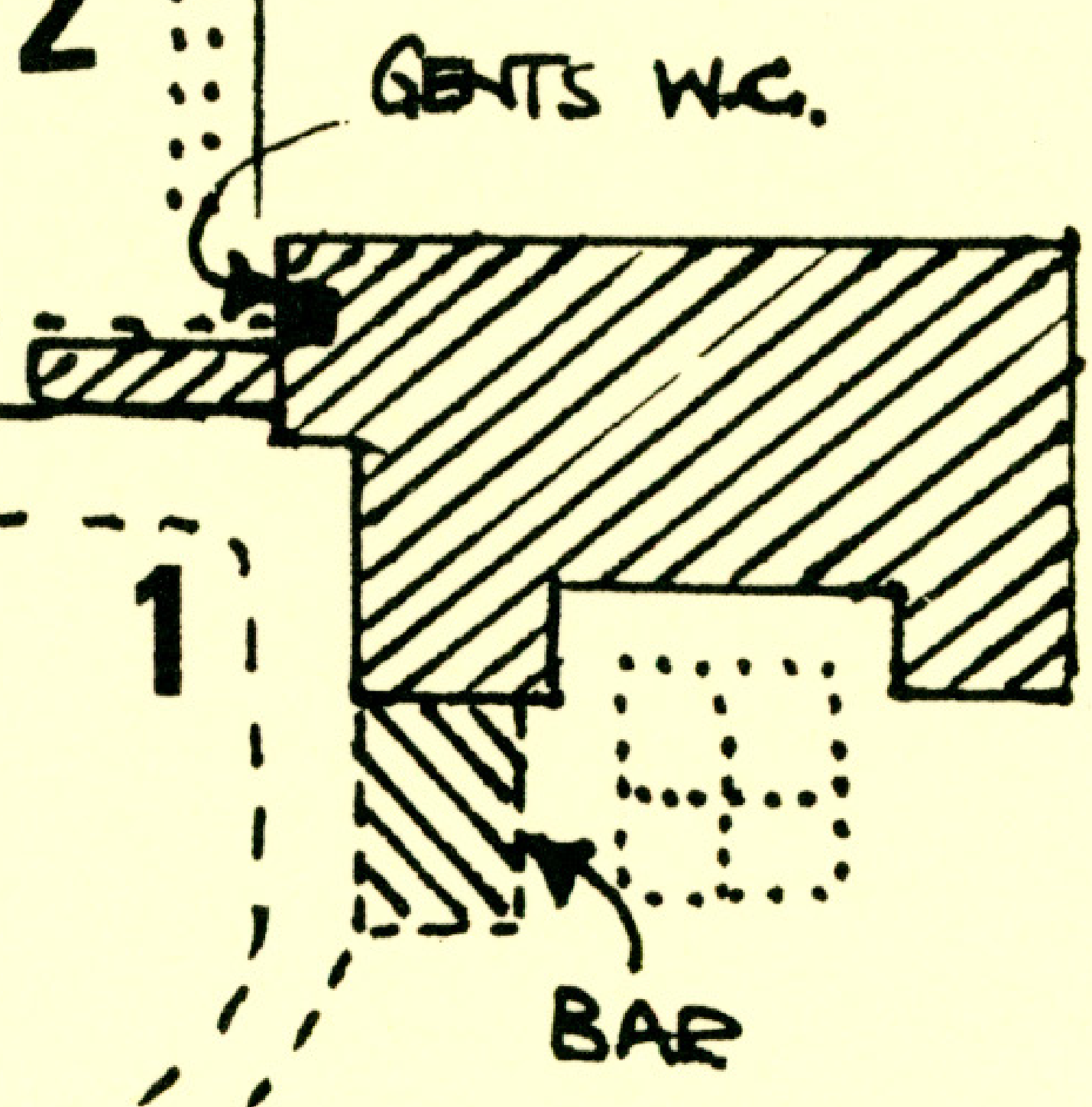
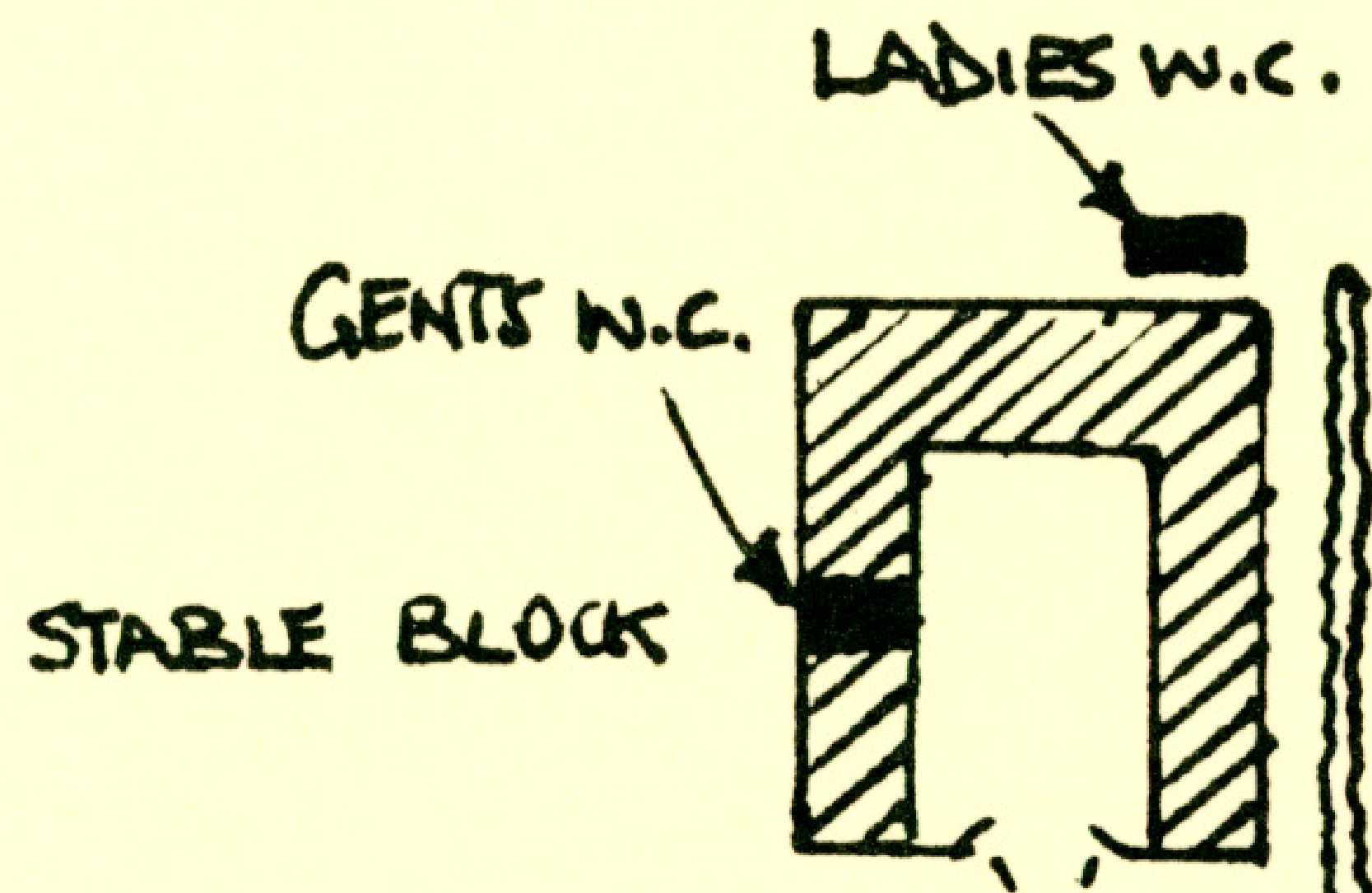
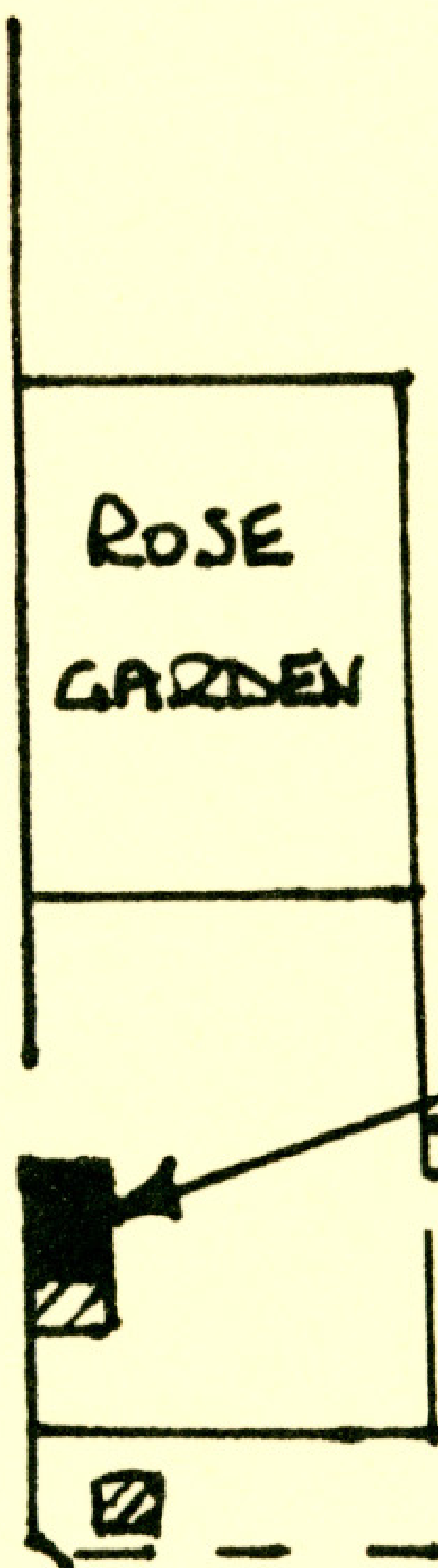
WESSEX CHILDREN'S CANCER UNIT APPEAL

The aim of the Appeal is to fund a purpose built and self-contained Cancer Unit for children at the Southampton General Hospital.

The General Hospital has become the Centre to which almost all children with cancer in Wessex are referred for initial diagnosis, evaluation and treatment, and such has been the success of the specialist medical service provided that, now 50% to 60% of children with cancer are cured, when a few years ago, most would have died. The ever increasing number of children, who are living, are receiving weekly outpatient treatment on a Surgical Day ward which was never intended to accommodate children with cancer. Consequently it has become grossly overcrowded. Similarly, the inpatient facilities are now wholly inadequate, with very sick and distressed children, highly vulnerable to infection, being cared for on a General Medical Ward, in a few poorly ventilated and cramped cubicles, in close proximity to other non-cancer patients. Parents who need to stay in hospital with these children must sleep on camp beds and in chairs.

Each year there are about 50 new patients (one each week) in the Wessex Region. In 1987, 55 children were treated as inpatients and 143 as outpatients. Between them they were seen 1435 times. The new Unit will provide a 10 bed ward with some en suite accommodation for parents. There will be two isolation rooms for bone marrow transplant patients. Further accommodation for parents will include a kitchen, lounge, toilet and shower facilities. The adjacent Day Care Area for the outpatient children, attending for weekly treatments, will include separate recreational rooms for toddlers and teenagers.

Conditions will be more spacious and comfortable and isolated from the other non-cancer patients. There will be one location in which the treatment and support for the children with cancer may be concentrated - a centre of excellence in place of the existing makeshift and scattered facilities.



MAIN DRIVE

- 1 - FIRST ACT
- 2 - SECOND ACT
- 3 - THIRD ACT

TO CAR PARK

