



MOOT HOUSE PLAYERS



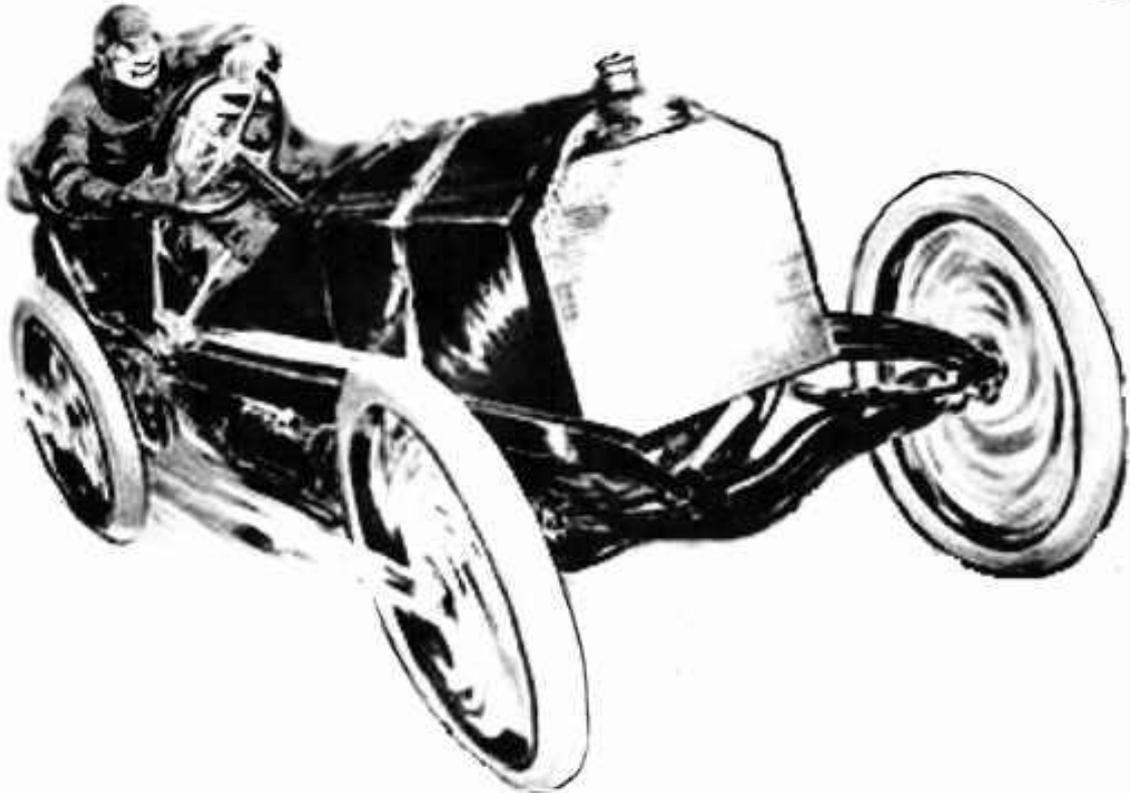
present

February 3, 4, 5 at 8.00pm

TOAD

OF

TOAD HALL



By A.A. Milne

Directed by Bett Hewlett

At Moot Hall, The Stow, Harlow CM20 3AG

TOAD OF TOAD HALL

BY A. A. MILNE

BASED ON "THE WIND IN THE WILLOWS" BY KENNETH GRAHAME

Characters in order of appearance:

Marigold	Bethany Hewlett
Nanny	Bridget McAlpine
Mr Mole	Robbie Chittick
Mr Rat	Tony Edwards
Mr Badger	Jon MacNamara
Mr Toad	Dan Powell
Alfred, a horse	Michael Miller
Chief Weasel	Jennifer Southwell
First Carol Singer	Elliott Johnson
Policeman	Michael Miller
Gaoler	Jonathan Hewlett
Court Usher	Alan Hodgson
Judge	David Schacht
Phoebe	Kerry Rowland
The Washerwoman	Bridget McAlpine
Mother Rabbit	Jocelyn Johnson
Harold Rabbit	William Johnson
Lucy Rabbit	Pollyanna Johnson
The Barge Woman	Angela Hodgson
The Barge Horse	Jonathan Hewlett and Darren Addicott
Small Stoat	Jack Hewlett

Ferrets, Weasels, Stoats and Members of the Jury: Darren Addicott, Bethany Hewlett, Jack Hewlett, Jonathan Hewlett, Alan Hodgson, Angela Hodgson, Elliott Johnson, Jocelyn Johnson, Pollyanna Johnson, William Johnson, Catriona Macleay, Bridget McAlpine, Michael Miller

Directed by Bett Hewlett

Assistant Director Claire Quley - Production Manager Anne Farr

Choreography by Jennifer Southwell

Stage Staff Toni Beeson, Henrietta Branwell and Michael Rees

Settings devised by the Director, built by Tony Edwards & the Players

Painted by the Director, Margaret Beenson & Jennifer Southwell

Lighting and Sound designed and operated by Michael Branwell

Costumes by Laws - Props by Michael Caswell

Caravan and Alfred's Head : Paul Regeli - Barge Horse : Keeleys Prop Hire

The Players would like to thank Bob Mallison for help with the music

SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

	Prologue	
Scene 1		The River Bank
Scene 2		The Wild Wood
Scene 3		Mr Badger's House
Scene 4		The same, some weeks later
	INTERVAL	
Scene 5		The Court House
	SHORT BREAK	
Scene 6		The Dungeon
Scene 7		The Canal Bank
Scene 8		Mr Rat's House
Scene 9		The Underground Passage
Scene 10		Toad Hall
	Epilogue	

Kenneth Grahame wrote "The Wind In The Willows" in 1908. A. A. Milnes' version, "Toad Of Toad Hall", was first performed in 1929. Twenty-one years and a World War separated them. It is no wonder that Grahame's dream of a "Golden Age" seems very remote, but even more precious to us today.

Grahame had created a world of peace and leisure around a core of good companionship - a peacefulness which a younger generation would, perhaps, find boring. Young Toad does - he wants excitement and adventure like many a youngster. But, when it turns sour and life becomes very uncomfortable, he is made to realise that other people do matter and, generally, know best.

At the very beginning of this story, Marigold introduces us to the main characters and tries to explain that they see themselves as humans. In this production, they are definitely humans with, perhaps, some animal characteristics.

This is the third production of "Toad Of Toad Hall" the Players have presented. The first was in 1967, the second in 1998. Jennifer Southwell, Jon MacNamara and David Schacht were in the second production and Tony Edwards was in both - first as Alfred and then the Policeman. This time he has progressed to Mr Rat.

We hope you all enjoy this version of Toad's adventures and, although the play is now over 80 years old, we think it has worn well.

A. A. MILNE (1882 - 1956) was an author, playwright and, for many years, assistant editor of *Punch*. He became widely popular as the author of light novels and comedies like *Mr Pym Passes By* (1920). He achieved real fame with his four children's books which centred on his son, Christopher Robin, who found this unlooked-for notoriety a great trial in his adult life.

DATES FOR THE REST OF THE 2010 - 2011 SEASON :

MARCH 23rd-25th - "Murder In Company"

Jon MacNamara directs this ever popular who-dun-it. Set in a hall where amateur actors are rehearsing for a play, it's the ideal showcase for a group of like-minded people but not, we hope, so murderously inclined!

MAY 12th-14th - "Whose Life Is It Anyway?"

by ex-MHP member Brian Clark. Tony Edwards will direct this still topical and thought-provoking play. It may be 30 years since it was written, but it resonates even more with the reports of war casualties we are so used to nowadays.

JULY 7th-9th -- an International Festival of one-act plays

presented by small groups we have met during our own overseas tours, supported by one-act plays in English. Language will be no barrier to your appreciation of this event.

Moot House Players acknowledges with thanks the help of their parent organisation, the Mark Hall and Netteswell Community Association.

Moot House Players can be contacted at
moothouse.players@ntlworld.com

Details of past and future productions can be found
on the Company's website
www.moothouseplayers.com

If you are not on our mailing list, please leave your name and address at the Box Office - if you have an e-mail address we can use, please let us have it, as we can, more easily, reach everyone by e-mail in advance of each production.