

Waterbeach Community Players' production of
The Happy Breed by Noel Coward - reviewed by Brian Cooper

The choice of *This Happy Breed* was proved to be an inspired one for Waterbeach Community Players, and if anyone needed convincing that this is a versatile group, then surely even the most doubting of Thomas's would be hard pressed to even shrug their shoulders!

This is the story of family life between the two World Wars, the trials and tribulations, the happy and the very sad. Indeed it is a condensed soap opera, with little or no plot, just an insight into people's lives.

MARTIN GEORGE made his debut as a director and if this is the start then there surely must be some superb productions ahead of him. This is not to say that there were not bad points in his work but for a first attempt it was excellent.

Credit must go to the complete cast for the acting. It would be unjust to single out anyone person as each part whether large or small was played to the full. There were some lovely scenes beautifully portrayed with the humour and sometimes deep sorrow vividly brought to the fore. The set was excellent, as were the scene changes executed competently by an obviously well-organised crew. Good use of lighting and sound added to the overall enjoyment of the production.

The greatest problem in a play of this type is the ageing of the characters over a 20 year span, and I did feel that, to a degree, this did lessen the credibility a little. My only criticism of the actors is that seldom did they move as though they were 20 years older by the end of the play. I also doubt that a family would keep all their furniture in exactly the same positions for this length of time. A little more rearrangement would have added to the authenticity.

I have deliberately not singled anyone out in this production, as this was a true team effort and everyone concerned can feel proud that they gave their audience a wonderful evening's entertainment.