

Past Productions

As Good As New	1981
Lord Arthur Savile's Crime	1982
Bilthe Spirit	1983
Night Must Fall	1984
Cat On The Fiddle	1985
A Murder Has Been Arranged	1986
Abigail's Party	1987
Habeus Corpus	1987
Music Hall	1988
The Hollow	1988
The Farndale Murder Mystery	1989
Do Not Disturb	1990
More Tea Vicar	1990
When We Are Married	1991
Cinderella	1991
The Farndale Macbeth	1992
Confusions	1992
Private Lives	1993
Dick Whittington	1993
Music Hall	1993
Family Planning	1994
A Chorus Of Disapproval	1994
How The Other Half Loves	1995
We'll Meet Again	1995
The Witch's Revenge	1995
What The Butler Saw	1996
A Funny Thing Happened...	1996
Steel Magnolias	1997
Shiver Me Timbers	1997

The Smarden Players will be presenting music hall entertainment in the restaurant of The Bull at Bethersden on May 23rd, and in Bethersden Village Hall on May 29th. Both evenings are for worthy charities.

Our next home production will be held on Friday, 27th and Saturday 28th November 1998, here at the Village Hall.

Our thanks, as ever, to The Post Office, The Flying Horse, and The Bull at Bethersden, for acting as box offices.

We are very keen to recruit new members, so if you have secret ambitions to try your hand at acting, set design, or backstage work, see us after the show, or phone our Secretary, Pat Palmer, on 01233 770557. You can be sure of a warm welcome, and you'll have lots of fun.



Michael Palin



Cast in order of appearance.

Stephen Febble , retired sales manager	John Freeman
Virginia Febble , his wife	Pat Palmer
Mrs Finlay , a Marxist cleaning lady	Gill Fowler
Duff Gardner , the Febbles' neighbour	Hilary Millen
Charlotte , Alan and Diana's daughter	Sara Drury
Alan , the Febbles' son-in-law	Mike Twort
Diana , the Febbles' daughter	Geraldine Dyer
Bridget Gardner , Duff's wife	Rosemary Freeman
Hugh Bedales , a society chiropodist	Mike Darby
Pippa , Alan and Diana's dog	Jemima

Directed by Lea Randolph

Produced by Bob Barnes

Set Design	Peter Gibbs
Set Construction	Peter Gibbs and members of the Players
Lighting & Sound	Roger Birch • Tina Ray
Stage Manager	Jan Turney
Assisted by	Sarah Hudson
Prompt	Kathy Gibbs
Front of House	Marcus Palmer • Peter Glass
Publicity	Geraldine Dyer

The action takes place in the Febbles' house in Suffolk, not far from the coast, in the present day.

Act One

Scene 1	Friday morning.
Scene 2	Friday evening.
Scene 3	Saturday morning at breakfast.
Scene 4	Later Saturday morning. (Brief curtain)
Scene 5	Early evening Saturday.
Scene 6	A few minutes later, & God speaks.

Interval of 15 minutes.

Act Two

Scene 1	The dinner party begins.
Scene 2	The meal has finished.
Scene 3	The guests have gone.
Scene 4	Sunday morning dawns.
Scene 5	A couple of hours later.

Cantankerous, misanthropic, miserable, world-weary - think of an adjective synonymous with 'crabby' and it will apply to Stephen Febble. All he wants is to be left alone, but, to his horror, his long-suffering wife Virginia fills the house with guests for the weekend.

Diana, his daughter, with her husband, Alan, their daughter Charlotte, and their dog, Pippa arrive for the weekend. Alan's job as a specialist in bulk cargo handling techniques has ominous implications for the Febbles' retirement home.

When Duff and his wife, Bridget arrive for supper with an unexpected extra guest, the society chiropodist, Bedales, Stephen's equilibrium is further threatened.

Stephen responds in the only way he knows how - with a monstrous display of rudeness.