

# *Account of Purley on Thames*

## Rain or Shine - As You Like It

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The summer visit by the Rain or Shine Theatre group took place later than usual this year on Friday July 6th. to avoid a clash with the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. The actors' performance of 'As You Like It' was described by those who watched as the best yet, high praise indeed for a company whose presentations have become such a popular part of village life. The audience for the evening performance was slightly smaller than usual but those who stayed away missed a treat.

The matinee was watched by year six children from Westwood Farm Junior School as Kendrick School were unable to attend. It is so exciting for young children to be able to watch live drama and a measure of the success of the experiment of inviting a younger age group can be measured by the fact that none of them asked to go to the toilet while the play was on.

The adapted script included a reference to the Olympic Games which delighted both audiences, though the Olympic rings had become triangles to avoid copyright problems. In addition one member of the audience was selected as a torch bearer to carry the Olympic flame on stage. The actors are all hugely talented; but I particularly appreciated the skills of Hilary Dernet, doubling up as Jacques and Madame Labeau.

I am grateful to those Project Purley members who helped so much in making the occasion possible yet again. The profit on the day was £475 which will be donated to the Duchess of Kent Hospice.

You may be interested to know that two of the regular cast members, Claire Tucker and actor/director James Maynard, were married as recently as April 4th. James has been working on a stage adaptation of Kenneth Graham's 'Wind in the Willows' which Rain or Shine will perform at the Barn on Friday December 7th, and next summer's play, Shakespeare's 'Comedy of Errors' will take place at the Barn on Friday June 7th 2013.

*David Downs*