

CHESIL THEATRE OUTREACH PROGRAMME (October 2024 Newsletter)

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Now in its third year the **Chesil Outreach Programme** has an array of mini rehearsed readings to take out into the community. This season has so far seen 2 groups visiting **The Weeke Friendship Group** and **Tuesdays Place** in Kings Worthy.

Our Outreach team held the World Premiere of a programme, ***For Better or Worse***, on September 20 for the **Brendoncare Weeke** social group (writes **Lisbeth Rake**).

Using pertinent thoughts from plays, novels, letters, diaries, newspaper reports and poems it takes a sideways look at love, weddings and marriage. Works by **Jane Austen, Charles Dickens, Thomas Hardy, GB Shaw, Dylan Thomas** and **Oscar Wilde** among many others, brought laughter, gentle smiles and wistful memories. **Eira Parry-Jones, Phillip Simons, Richard Stead, Norma York** and **Lisbeth Rake**, who compiled the anthology, brought a wide range of characters to life for the small but most attentive audience.

All the extracts have to be out of copyright, or original, so we are grateful to **Gerry Tuff** for allowing us to use her parody of ***Three Little Maids*** from in 1093 and All That, **Rupert Marks** for a thoughtful poem comparing marriage to a long train journey together, and **Deborah Cranmer** for giving permission to use one of the encounters from ***Parallel Lines*** written by **Graham**.

Emma Jackson, a volunteer with the group, sent the Outreach team this email. "*Thank you for coming to us. The programme was most interesting and entertaining and we all enjoyed the performance. It was much appreciated and applauded!*"

We must have gone down well, as we have already been asked back in December for a revival of Christmas Chronicles. On the 24th of September another Outreach group comprising of **Steve Clark, Rachel O'Neill, Lorraine Hepworth, Martin Humphrey & Christina Pye** performed a short programme at **Tuesday's Place in Kings Worthy**. The group were welcomed by a large audience and plied with cups of tea. During the afternoon they performed scenes from some of their favourite playwrights, including their now tried and tested three witches scene. Imagine three head scarved women dancing around holding carrier bags of dubious cauldron ingredients and you'll have some idea of the nature of the piece.

The programme was well received, with many people taking home this season's brochure. Meanwhile, the actors left with a bottle of wine each as a thank you gift!

"We enjoyed such a fun afternoon with the Outreach team at September's Tuesdays Place, thank you so much for helping us with this. Everyone enjoyed it, with lots of positive feedback! Please do think of us if any further teams do presentations next year".