

Bovingdon Players - "JB & the Top Secret Parrot"

December 2008 at Bovingdon Memorial Hall

Written, produced and directed by John & Brenda Bugg

What a fun evening! – good to see a specially written musical entertainment, with lots of local reference and some very funny lines. A take-off of the James Bond era, with appropriate name changes. The use of the rostrum for cast members to sing songs whilst scene changes were going on was good, which kept the pace in the main. I liked Robert Peacock's portrayal of James Bovingdon – he got that sardonic edge, and looked the part, whilst showing a nice voice. The Keetles, Nikki Clough, Pippa Taylor and Natalie Atkinson, were well-matched, and I loved their comedy number, it really showed their talents. Martin Brett (Jasper the Parrot) was very good fun – his costume was great and worked well – and yes, the old jokes are the best!! The junior chorus were good, Evan King spoke his lines very well and Conrad Bier-Allen was very believable as the orphan's leader, two young performers who will do well. Liz Goodenough was very good as Funnymoney, she gave the character fun and understanding, and has a most pleasing voice, I enjoyed her performance. There were a number of good performances with some excellent humour, Sue Aplin (the Queen) and Nick Spurling (Prince Philip) did very good impressions. The sound for some of the songs was a little out of balance, and backing tracks sometimes too slow. Costumes were good, cheerful and colourful, even the younger girls black and white dresses were bright - good costumes always add to the look of a production. An interesting and fun production, from this small but good society.

Nova Horley