

## HENFIELD THEATRE COMPANY

### *“LETTICE AND LOVAGE”*

**Performed on 17<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> March 2011 at The Henfield Hall**

For one who has had experience of both training guides and guiding tourists visiting an historic building, the opening scenes of this play were particularly entertaining. The growing confidence of Lettice Douffet in her embroidery of the facts was a delight. It must be that the author, Peter Shaffer, had inside knowledge!

What a superb performance Margaret Gore gave in the very demanding role of Lettice. A vast amount of dialogue was mastered and her unshakeable commitment to her mother's mantra, “Enlarge, enliven and enlighten” was convincingly conveyed.

Her co-star, Charlotte Schoen was played by Di Norman to the same high standard. Her change of personality from the formal and critical representative of The Preservation Trust to a contrite woman seeking to make amends was nicely drawn.

These two ladies showed great stage presence with their dialogue delivered with absolute clarity.

The sets – in the best tradition of Henfield Theatre Company – were excellent and it was rather surprising that only that of Lettice's basement flat received the acclaim of the audience. Sheila Nye's direction could not be faulted.

There is something strangely unconvincing about the resolution of the plot, which is in no way the fault of the cast or director. It was almost as if the author was desperate to create a dramatic conclusion and so, contrived something completely ‘off the wall’ in the interest of originality.

The whole performance was first rate with the minor roles and the chorus of visitors giving excellent support to the two splendid principals.

*Phillip Hall*

29.03.11